

3. *Biographical Notices of the Original Members of the British Ornithologists' Union, of the principal Contributors to the First Series of 'The Ibis,' and of the Officials.*

THESE Biographies fall naturally into two groups—firstly, Obituary Notices taken from the pages of 'The Ibis,' and, secondly, sketches of the lives of those Members who are still in our midst. The former have been submitted, in almost every case, to the surviving relatives or to intimate friends for correction or amplification; but of most of them it is not now possible to determine the original author. The latter have either been written by the Member himself or have been compiled from notes furnished by him.

It should be noted that, to avoid a separate heading, Dr. R. BOWDLER SHARPE, the President of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress, and a never-failing Contributor to our *Journal*, is placed with those who wrote in the First Series of 'The Ibis,' though the earliest paper from his pen was received later than 1864.



MR. ROBERT BIRKBECK.

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Robert Birkbeck was born at Keswick, Norfolk, on October 10th, 1836, and, on December 8th, 1857, married Mary Harriet, eldest daughter of Sir John William Lubbock, Bart. In early life he took a considerable interest in Ornithology, and was one of the first to join the ranks of the British Ornithologists' Union, when that body was projected in 1858. Since that date his name has always stood at the head of our list of Founders, and now, in our year of Jubilee, we sincerely congratulate him on being one of the five original Members still in the land of the living, though he resigned in 1868. His interest in Birds has, meanwhile, continued unabated, and he has had every opportunity on his Inverness-shire estate at Kinloch Hourn of studying their habits and protecting the rarer species, in a manner worthy of the brother-in-law of Lord Avebury and the uncle by marriage of Mr. J. H. Gurney.

Residing for a considerable portion of the year at 20 Berkeley Square, he is naturally a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, which he joined in 1856. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, Deputy-Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for Inverness-shire.

He is deeply interested in horticulture, and the favoured climate of the west coast of Scotland, much resembling that of Cornwall, allows many tender exotics to flourish in his gardens, which contain examples of over six hundred species of trees and shrubs.



COLONEL H. M. DRUMMOND-HAY.

## COLONEL H. M. DRUMMOND-HAY.

Henry Maurice Drummond, youngest son of Vice-Admiral Sir Adam Drummond, K.C.H., of Megginch Castle in the county of Perth, and Lady Charlotte, daughter of the 4th Duke of Athole, was born on June 7th, 1814, at Bath. From his childhood he was an enthusiastic field-naturalist, and when on leaving school he was sent abroad to study foreign languages, in several of which he was consequently proficient, he spent much time in the workshop of M. Linder, at that time the best authority on the ornithology of Switzerland and the Alps. Here he practised taxidermy, which to the day of his death was the favourite resource of his leisure hours, and few could so successfully mount a bird in a natural and life-like attitude, for few were so familiar with the actions of the bird in life. In June 1832 Henry Drummond received his commission in the 42nd Royal Highlanders (the Black Watch), in which regiment he served for twenty years in Ireland, at Malta, Corfu, Bermuda, and Halifax, Nova Scotia. During all this time he was unwearied in studying the ornithology, ichthyology, and botany of his different stations and of their neighbouring countries, and lost no opportunity of making excursions into districts which were at that time untouched by the naturalist. He became a regular correspondent of Sir W. Jardine, of Yarrell, and of Strickland, who visited him in Corfu. He contributed several papers, recording his observations, to the periodicals of the day. Among these are:—"Notes of a Sojourn of Four Years in Corfu. The Birds of Corfu and the Ionian Islands," *Ann. & Mag. N. H.* 1843, vol. xii.; "Two Months in the Island of Crete," *ibid.*, being the first notice of Cretan ornithology since Belon; "A short Excursion in Macedonia," *Ann. & Mag. N. H.* 1846, vol. xviii., a paper read at the British Association's meeting at Cork. In these

articles are many interesting observations on migration and on the notes of birds, in detecting and imitating which he was remarkably proficient. In 1835 he was the discoverer of *Hypolais olivetorum*, which he pointed out to Strickland, who described it in 1837. He was also the first to detect the presence of *Hypolais elaica* in Europe, and he described the White-necked Jackdaw as *Corvus collaris*, Ann. & Mag. N. H. 1846, vol. xviii. p. 11. He contributed articles to 'The Ibis' in 1865, 1888, and 1889.

During the years he was quartered at Malta and Corfu he formed an almost complete collection of the birds of the Mediterranean countries. These, all mounted and arranged by his own hands, he placed in Megginch Castle, where they remain as heirlooms.

On the removal of his regiment to Bermuda, where it was stationed for three years, Drummond devoted himself chiefly to ichthyology, and, being a clever artist, made a splendid collection of coloured drawings of the Bermuda fishes. These drawings and notes he lent for exhibition to the Smithsonian Institution. They fill two large MS. volumes, but have not yet been published.

He also made many additions to the avifauna of the islands during his stay in that quarter. He was the captain of the Grenadier company, and infused his spirit into all the men of his battalion, who were as enthusiastic as their popular captain in fishing and in collecting for him the treasures of the deep.

Drummond retired from the 42nd Royal Highlanders in 1852. He used to be fond of relating how he believed himself to be the last man who had ever seen the Great Auk alive. In returning to Europe in Dec. 1852, on the edge of the Newfoundland banks he watched for some time a Great Auk which was within 30 or 40 yards of the steamer; and as he had his field-glasses, and could distinctly note the bill and white ear-patches, he felt that he could not be mistaken. He heard also from a friend in Newfoundland that in the following year a dead Great Auk had been washed ashore in Trinity Bay. This is the last trace of the giant of the

Aleida. Shortly after his return Drummond joined the Royal Perthshire Rifles Militia as their Lieut.-Colonel Commandant, and commanded the regiment when embodied during the Crimean War, and till 1872, when he retired from the Service, holding the rank of full Colonel in the Army.

He was the first President of the British Ornithologists' Union, and one of the original twenty who in the year 1858 founded it and started 'The Ibis,' of whom, after an interval of 50 years, five still remain among us.

On his marriage with the heiress of Seggieden in 1859 he took her name of Hay, and from that date till the time of his death he was known as Colonel Drummond-Hay, of Seggieden. For the last twenty years of his life he devoted himself to the natural history of Perthshire and Tayside, and especially to the formation of the Perth Museum, sparing no pains to enrich it with specimens of every bird found in the district, together with its nest and eggs, but always refusing to admit any specimen which was not undoubtedly local. He had the satisfaction of seeing his darling wish accomplished, and could boast that, as a local museum, that of Perth had few rivals. His last public appearance was at the opening of the new and enlarged museum buildings by Sir W. H. Flower in November 1895, and his end came peacefully on the 3rd of January, 1896, in his 82nd year.

In these days of specialists Colonel Drummond-Hay was a noble specimen of the true field-naturalist, as well as of the soldier and country gentleman, a keen observer of nature in every department. He was a good botanist, devoting himself especially to lichens. Few could rival his garden in its show of rare herbaceous plants. And he found time to take an active part in the public life of his country, and not least in ecclesiastical affairs, being for many years an active member of the Representative Church Council of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Long may our land produce sons like our first President, worthy successors of the Vigorses, Jardines, and Selbys of an earlier generation!



MR. T. C. EYTON.



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Thomas Campbell Eyton, of Eyton and Walford Manor, Shropshire, was the eldest son of the late Mr. Thomas Eyton, of Eyton, by his marriage with Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Major-General Donald Campbell, and was born in the year 1809. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, was a magistrate and Deputy-lieutenant for the county of Salop, and formerly held a commission in the South Salop Yeomanry Cavalry. He was a member of the Linnean, Geological, and Zoological Societies. His museum at Eyton Hall contained a large collection of birds and bird-skeletons, of which, we believe, the types and more important specimens are now in the British Museum. Mr. Eyton's name is well known to ornithologists as the author of a 'History of the rarer British Birds' (1836), and in the same year 'A Catalogue of British Birds'; a 'Monograph of the Duck Tribe' (1838); 'Osteologia Avium' (1861); and other works and papers, including two in 'The Ibis' for 1859 and 1861. He died at his residence, Eyton Hall, near Wellington, Shropshire, at the end of October 1880.

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DR. F. D. GODMAN.

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Frederick DuCane Godman, third son of Joseph Godman, of Park Hatch, Surrey, was born on January 15th, 1834, and educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. He married in 1872 Edith Mary, second daughter of J. H. Elwes, of Colesborne, Gloucestershire, and secondly Alice Mary, only daughter of Major Chaplin, 60th Rifles. He left school early in consequence of an attack of low fever, the effects of which were not completely shaken off till some years later. Before going to the University, however, accompanied by his tutor, he went for a tour to the south of Spain, Greece, and Constantinople, where on the afternoon of their arrival, for no other reason than that he heard of a homeward-bound vessel, the tutor suddenly announced his intention of returning to England at once, a proceeding which he carried out, leaving his pupil, who declined to accompany him, without letters of introduction, and with only a single sovereign in his pocket. Being thus stranded, Godman sought the assistance of Misseri, the hotel-keeper, who accompanied him to the Bank and initiated him in the art of "drawing a bill," in order to provide funds for his maintenance, for at that time it would have been a matter of six weeks before a reply to his letters home could be received and money sent out. While at Constantinople he fortunately made the acquaintance of the Consul at Trebizond, who was staying at the hotel, and accompanied him in a steamer on an expedition to various places in the Black Sea; among others they entered the harbour of Sevastopol and dropped anchor there. This somewhat bold proceeding had scarcely been carried out before an order was sent from the Governor demanding their immediate departure under pain of being fired upon, a request which was speedily complied with.

On the journey up the Dardanelles *en route* for Constantinople the steamer stopped to land some cargo at the ancient Sestos, and, borrowing a boat and a couple of sailors from the captain, Godman proceeded to bathe, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was close to the spot where Leander swam the Hellespont, so resolving to do the like, Godman made the attempt, and successfully crossed to the Asiatic side.

Before leaving Constantinople he fell in with two soldier friends, and subsequently rode through Greece with them; then, after returning to Athens, crossed the Isthmus of Corinth, took the steamer to Trieste, and so came home by Vienna and Dresden.

In October 1853 Godman went to Cambridge, and, having a great love for natural history, soon became acquainted with other kindred spirits, notably the two brothers Newton and Osbert Salvin; with the last then commenced that lifelong and close friendship which culminated in the joint publication of the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana,' and terminated only with Salvin's death in 1898. During the summer term it had been the custom of the ornithological friends to meet and talk over their recent captures of birds and eggs, and at one of these meetings the suggestion was made that a published record should be kept of their proceedings, but no definite plan was then formulated, and it was not till the celebrated gathering at Magdalene College in Alfred Newton's rooms, in November 1857, that the British Ornithologists' Union, consisting of 20 members, was founded, while the first volume of 'The Ibis' was issued in the ensuing year.

While at Cambridge Godman took his first lessons in bird-stuffing, and thenceforth Salvin and he spent much of their spare time on wet days in the shop of Baker, the well-known taxidermist in the Trumpington Road, thus acquiring that practical knowledge of bird-skinning which was destined to be so useful in after life. It was, however, by no means Ornithology alone that interested them, and together they made frequent expeditions into the Fens in search of Lepidoptera, and a very fair collection of local insects was

obtained. They were always in hopes of finding the Great Copper Butterfly, but, in consequence of the extensive drainage of the Fens, it proved to have become extinct. Godman relates that he well remembers his delight at being shown two large drawers full of this fine insect by Brown, the tailor on King's Parade, also an ardent entomologist, who had captured them with his own hand.

In the spring of 1855, in company with Herbert Duckworth, Godman went to Italy, and, after visiting Rome and Naples, proceeded alone to the Crimea, where he stayed for some weeks with his brother, now Major-General Godman, then a Captain in the 5th Dragoon Guards, and while there witnessed from the heights above Sevastopol the capture of the Mamelou by the French troops, and that of the Rifle Pits by the English; he afterwards saw the unsuccessful attack on the Malakoff, but left a few days before the second and final attack, which ended in its capture and the evacuation of Sevastopol by the Russians.

The first serious bird-collecting expedition was made in the summer of 1857, for, having met with an accident and broken his leg in the hunting-field during the winter, Godman was obliged to forego an earlier trip with Tristram, Simpson (Hudleston), and Salvin on their interesting expedition to Algeria. But he was able later to go with his brother Percy, also an original member of the B.O.U., to Bodö in the north of Norway, where they remained some weeks and made a good collection of birds and eggs, including four or five nests of the Great Snipe. Thence proceeding northwards to the Alten River, they crossed the mountains to Muonioniska, where they paid John Wolley a visit, and were taken by him to see a Crane's nest situated in the middle of a large marsh, to which they waded up to their waists in mud and water, though perfectly aware that the young birds had already left the place. They next went down the Tornea River to Haparanda and by steamer to Stockholm and St. Petersburg, visiting Moscow and Nijni Novgorod before returning home. An account of the early part of this trip appeared in 'The Ibis' for 1861.

Salvin had already paid a visit to Guatemala on business, and had spent his spare time in collecting birds and insects, and when Darwin's 'Origin of Species' was published, both Godman and Salvin read it with intense interest, while it shortly afterwards occurred to them that a careful examination of the fauna and flora of Central America would throw some light on the then much-discussed subject of the distribution of species and its bearing on evolution. Partly with this idea in view, partly from a natural and strongly developed love of travel, they started together in August 1861, and going first to Jamaica, spent a month collecting birds, insects, and plants most industriously, and then proceeded to Belize and Guatemala. Here they travelled about the country, making, however, San Gerónimo on the Atlantic side and Dueñas on the Pacific their chief headquarters. From Dueñas they made frequent expeditions into the high forests of the Volcan de Fuego, forming large collections of both birds and insects, shooting the Quesal and Oreophasis, besides many other rare and interesting birds, all of which were sent to England as opportunity occurred. On returning from an expedition to the low forests of Vera Paz, Godman had a sharp attack of malarial fever, which made it imprudent for him to join his companion on the long and tedious journey on foot from Coban to Peten and Belize; he therefore returned to the Motagua River, and occupied himself before returning home in obtaining specimens of the fishes for the British Museum. The poisoning was carried out in the following manner. Having engaged some 20 Indians, they first made eight or nine V-shaped wattle fences, locally called "tapescos," placing them at various intervals across the shallower parts of the river, the point of the V being down stream and left open. A quantity of a plant (? Agave) was then collected and beaten with sticks on the flat stones in the river, thus producing a sort of soap-sud, which mixing with the water sickened the fishes, and caused them to float upon the surface and be carried down into the wicker baskets. In this manner about eight or nine miles of water was poisoned, but although large

numbers of fishes were captured it was disappointing to find that they belonged to but few species. The process above described was not infrequently resorted to by the Indians on a smaller scale for the purpose of procuring food, but on this occasion a season was selected when a religious function was about to take place, and as large quantities of fishes would be required there was no difficulty in disposing of the surplus. Having secured sufficient specimens, Godman proceeded to Yzabal, where he again met Salvin, who had meanwhile successfully accomplished his journey to Peten and Belize, and, bidding him adieu, took the steamer for England, while Salvin returned to Dueñas and remained in Guatemala collecting birds and insects for another year. During their sojourn in Central America they had instructed several natives in the art of skinning birds and collecting generally, and these they continued to employ for several years after their own departure to England, receiving at intervals large consignments of valuable material which was to form the basis of their research. On Salvin's return from Guatemala the two friends united their collections, and also gradually acquired a considerable number of books on ornithology and entomology, in order to assist them in working out the results of their labours.

Three years later Godman went to the Azores for the purpose of investigating the Flora and Fauna of those islands, devoting himself chiefly to the birds and plants, but taking with him a well-known entomologist, Mr. Brewer, in order to pay special attention to the Coleoptera, a subject which had recently proved of much interest in the Canaries, through the researches of Wollaston. After visiting all the islands in the group with the exception of Santa Maria, he returned with a good representative collection of the birds, including a Bullfinch from St. Michael's, which he afterwards described and figured in 'The Ibis' for 1864 under the name of *Pyrrhula murina*. He shortly afterwards published an account of the results of this expedition in an octavo volume entitled 'The Azores,' in which he was assisted by Mr. Crotch for the Coleoptera, Canon

Tristram for the Conchology, and Mr. Wilson for the Plants.

In order to compare their Faunas more critically with those of the Azores, Godman made a further expedition in 1872 to Madeira and the Canaries, but a case of small-pox having broken out amongst the crew of the steamer, he was not allowed to land at the former island but was sent on to Teneriffe, where he underwent ten days' quarantine in an old ruined prison. When his freedom was regained he established his headquarters at the Puerto de Orotava, from whence he made various expeditions on foot to other parts of the island, frequently going to the high pine-forest, and on one occasion ascending the peak. Communication with the other islands at that time was a matter of considerable difficulty, and in consequence of the rigid quarantine regulations then in force, Godman was unable to do more than pay a hurried visit to Palma and Fuerteventura, while at neither of these islands was he able to do any serious collecting. On leaving the Canaries he landed in Madeira, and went round the island on foot making a collection of birds. Here in the laurel-forest he procured specimens of the Wood-Pigeon, which, though identical with that found in Teneriffe, proved to be undescribed and was named by him *Columba bollii* on his return to England. Before leaving Funchal he crossed to the Salvages in an open boat, starting in calm and fine weather. The landing is at all times somewhat difficult, as the rocks are steep and slippery, and there is usually a swell; however, having scrambled ashore, he soon found some Petrels breeding in their burrows amongst the rocks, but had scarcely time to get more than a dozen specimens before it began to blow pretty hard and a speedy retreat to the boat became necessary. On the return journey to Funchal the gale increased in violence and the boat was nearly capsized more than once, most of the birds and eggs were washed overboard, and Godman only saved his gun from the same fate by lashing it to the seat of the boat. A short account of his experiences in these islands appeared in 'The Ibis' for 1872.



At his father's death Salvin succeeded to the property at Fernhurst in Surrey and gave up his London house, where a large part of the united collections and books had, up till that time, been stored. In order to accommodate these Godman rented a house in Tenterden Street, which later became a popular resort of the Ornithological fraternity after the scientific meetings of the Zoological Society in Hanover Square. The house being larger than Godman required, Lord Lilford occupied the ground floor, and at various times Dresser and others also kept their ornithological collections there. Besides his library and collections, Lilford always had there a number of living pets, and amongst them was a half-grown Boa, which on one occasion escaped from its box and was lost for some weeks, only to be eventually found during the "spring cleaning" coiled up behind some of the books. Lilford used to allow this animal to crawl over him, and on one occasion the creature having coiled itself round his body commenced to squeeze him most unpleasantly; he, however, with some little difficulty freed himself from its embrace and at once put it in a box and sent it straight to the Zoological Gardens.

Godman continued to occupy this house for some years, but on finding that the united collections outgrew its capacity, he moved to 10 Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, and there remained till 1907.

In 1878 Godman and Salvin, who had long meditated publishing some connected record of their Natural History experiences in Central America, at last matured a plan for doing so. It was proposed to give a full account of the Botany and Zoology of the Region as far as it was possible, calling in the assistance of various specialists for many of the subjects, while they themselves undertook the Ornithology and Diurnal Lepidoptera, and also edited the whole work. To this was later added an illustrated treatise on Archaeology by Mr. A. P. Maudslay, who had paid special attention to that subject. The work was to be issued in parts (the first appeared in September 1879), each part containing 12 sheets of letterpress and an average of 6 coloured

plates, composed of various subjects, which, being differently paged, could eventually be bound up in their respective volumes. It was estimated that the complete work might extend to some 60 parts of Zoology; but no sooner had the publication commenced than a vast quantity of additional material poured in, and it shortly became evident that the scope of the work would have to be much extended. At the present time 201 parts of Zoology have been issued, which include 45 completed volumes, 33 of these being devoted to Insecta. Upwards of 36,000 species have been enumerated, and nearly half of these are described as new, while the greater number are figured. Amongst the subjects finished, the following statistics give some idea of the extent of the 'Biologia':—Mammalia (completed in 1882), 180 species, illustrated by 22 plates; Aves (4 volumes, completed in 1904), 1413 species, with 84 plates; Reptilia and Batrachia (completed in 1902), 675 species, with 76 plates; Pisces (completed in 1908) 416 species, with 26 plates; Mollusca (completed in 1901), 887 species, with 44 plates; Arachnida (3 volumes, completed in 1905), 1181 species, with 105 plates; Lepidoptera Rhopalocera (3 volumes, completed in 1901), 1805 species (360 new), with 113 plates, &c.

Five volumes are devoted to the Botany (completed in 1888), and this subject is illustrated by 110 plates. The Neuroptera and Orthoptera will be completed in November 1909.

Mr. G. C. Champion was especially sent out by Godman to Guatemala and Panama, and proved an unusually good collector. He remained in those countries from 1879 to 1883, and has since continually taken an active part in working out the vast amount of material obtained by himself and other collectors. He has, however, specially devoted his attention to the Insecta, which has proved by far the largest, and perhaps the most important, subject. For some years he has likewise been sub-editor.

In dealing with the enormous number of specimens which had to be set, labelled, and frequently dissected, mention must be made of the assistance rendered by Mr. A. Cant,

who has so admirably executed this work, and who, with Mr. Champion, is still engaged upon the 'Biologia.'

Godman having been invalided for some months by a severe attack of phlebitis, was in 1888 recommended by his Doctor to spend the winter in a warmer climate, and as he and Salvin had found, in working out the various subjects for the 'Biologia,' that their collections contained very scanty material from Mexico, he decided to visit that country with a view to supplying this deficiency. In order, however, to gain full advantage from the expedition, he procured the services of Messrs. Richardson and Lloyd, who devoted their attention specially to collecting birds, the latter going to the northern provinces, while the former accompanied Godman to Central and Southern Mexico. He also took with him Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Smith, who proved marvelously good collectors in various branches of Entomology. All these assistants remained in the country for a considerable time after Godman's return, adding much valuable material, but extending still farther the scope of the work.

On his return from Mexico, agreeing with his friend that both their own and the National Collection were greatly deficient in North-American birds, so important for comparison in working out their Mexican allies, Godman bought the Henshaw Collection, which was carefully examined and authentically named by Professor Ridgway before it was sent to England. This proved most valuable in determining many of the Central Mexican species.

In the summer of 1879 Godman and Salvin made a short trip to the Dauphiné Alps in company with H. J. Elwes and W. A. Forbes, with the double object of getting a change of scene and air, and collecting Alpine butterflies, about which at that time they were all very keen. They at first went to Chambéry, driving past the Monastery of the Grand Chartreuse to Grenoble and Briançon, over the Col du Lauteret on foot, to Oulx on the Mont Cenis Railway, thence to Turin and Baveno on Lago Maggiore, and again crossing the Alps by the Monte Moro pass into Switzerland whence they returned to England. Their total capture of

Diurnal Lepidoptera during the expedition was 103 species, not a very large one, but this was doubtless due to the somewhat bad weather they experienced. Forbes wrote a short account of the results of this trip in the 'Entomological Monthly Magazine' for 1880. It was in crossing the Monte Moro pass that Salvin first discovered that he had something wrong with his heart; he lagged behind at the steepest part, while the rest rather raced up the slope, but it was not till long after that the true cause was known, which ultimately proved fatal to him. He died suddenly on June 1st, 1898, and his death, as may well be imagined, came as a terrible blow to his friend, who was thus left alone to continue their great work.

For some years Godman had devoted most of his time to Entomology, leaving the Ornithology chiefly to Salvin; but with the Aves of the 'Biologia' still unfinished, he determined to complete this first, and having secured the assistance of Dr. R. B. Sharpe he proceeded with volume iii., which had only just been commenced; this being concluded, he returned to the Rhopalocera, of which the difficult family of the Pamphilinae was as yet untouched.

A succession of severe attacks of influenza, followed by six months of phlebitis, rendered Godman for some time unfit for much exertion, so, taking the advice of his Doctor, he spent a good deal of time abroad, and in company with his wife twice visited Egypt, on one occasion going as far as Luxor, and on another to Goz-abu-Guma on the White Nile, where he was much impressed by the enormous flocks of Cranes, Ducks, and other wild fowl that frequent that part of the river. They also went to South Africa, and thence north as far as the Zambezi falls, visiting the Gold-fields at Johannesburg, the Diamond-mines at Kimberley, and the principal battlefields in Natal and in the Orange River Colony, and including a trek from Kimberley to Bloemfontein in company with Major-General Broadwood.

In 1907 Godman again sought Dr. R. B. Sharpe's assistance in order to undertake a work which Salvin had contemplated with regard to the Procellariidae, a family for

which he always had a special liking, while he had lost no opportunity of procuring all the specimens he could obtain. He intended to supplement his Catalogue in the 25th volume of the Birds of the British Museum by an illustrated monograph on the group, and with this idea some 40 coloured plates by Mr. Keulemans had been executed. Salvin's untimely death, however, had put an end to this project, and Godman's first idea was to complete the remainder of the plates and publish them with only a few notes from the Catalogue.

A vast amount of fresh material had in the meantime come to hand in the various expeditions towards the South Pole, and Mr. Rothschild had also a very fine collection which he most kindly placed at Godman's disposal, and this entailed a thorough revision of the subject. This work is being issued in Parts, three of which, covering more than half the ground, have already appeared.

From very early days Godman exhibited an intense love of sport, which shewed itself in the varied pursuits of hunting, fishing, shooting, and stalking. As a boy he kept a pack of beagles, and later a pack of harriers, with which he hunted in the counties of Surrey and Sussex. He was a constant follower of Lord Leconfield's hounds, as well as of several other well-known packs. After hunting, few sports appealed more to him than stalking: his first experiences were in the island of Lewis, where he shared a shooting with three other friends; he afterwards rented the forest of Killelan on the west coast of Ross-shire, which proved a good sporting-place, but it was in Glenavon forest, which he rented for eighteen years from the Duke of Richmond, that the best all-round sport was obtained. Here on one occasion eight stags, averaging over  $15\frac{1}{2}$  stone, were stalked and killed by him in one day. His first salmon-fishing was at Glendalough in Galway, and he afterwards fished other rivers in Scotland, notably the Ness and the Tweed; on the latter river in 1906 he landed 20 fish in a single day, thus beating the record on the Hendersyde water.

Although the pleasures of the chase appealed so much to

him, the delight of watching and studying the habits of the wild animals added greatly to his enjoyment, and whether it was the pursuit of a fox or a stag, or the capture of a rare bird or scarce butterfly, each in turn afforded him equal pleasure.

Besides the expeditions already referred to, Godman made others to India with H. J. Elwes, where they spent some time in Native Sikkim, afterwards visiting the Madras Presidency and Ceylon. In addition to the before-mentioned journeys to Egypt and South Africa, he, accompanied by his wife, also visited Jamaica a second time, Spain, Italy, Sicily, Greece, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands; but as these expeditions were not primarily devoted to natural history, no special mention is here made of them.

When not engaged in scientific work Godman experienced a keen sense of enjoyment in horticulture, and in his garden in Sussex many rare and interesting plants are to be found. Though warmly appreciating all works of art, special attention has been paid to ceramics, and his collection of early Persian and Hispano-Moresque lustre, as well as of Rhodian and Damascus ware, is widely known.

As will have been seen, Godman was author—or joint author with Salvin—of the ‘*Biologia Centrali-Americana*,’ ‘*The Azores*,’ and of many papers in ‘*The Ibis*,’ chiefly on the birds of Central and South America, of others in the ‘*Proceedings of the Zoological Society*,’ the ‘*Annals and Magazine of Natural History*,’ and the ‘*Proceedings of the Entomological Society*,’ on Lepidoptera.

He is D.C.L. (Oxford), F.R.S., F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., F.E.S. (of which he was President for some years), F. Soc. Antiquaries, Memb. Royal Inst., a Trustee of the British Museum, Memb. B.O.U. (Secretary from 1870 to 1882 and from 1889 to 1897, President from 1896).

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MR. P. S. GODMAN.

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Percy Sanden Godman was born on Nov. 12th, 1836. He was educated at Eton College from 1849 to 1853, and at Trinity College, Cambridge, whence he took his B.A. degree, from 1854 to 1858. In 1857, in company with his brother, F. D. Godman, he went on an ornithological tour to Norway, making Bodö his headquarters. Amongst many interesting birds observed were: a pair of *Haliaëtus albicilla* (which had young in April), *Turdus iliacus*, *Turdus pilaris*, *Fringilla montifringilla*, *Motacilla alba*, *Cyanecula suecica*, *Linota rufescens*, *Strepsilas interpres* (eggs of all of which were taken, as well as nests of *Gallinago major*). *Tringa striata*, *Tringa temmincki*, *Anser albifrons*, *Stercorarius crepidatus*, and a large variety of Ducks and Gulls were also observed (*vide* 'Ibis,' vol. iii. p. 77). Subsequently the two brothers followed the West Coast, visiting the Lofoten Isles, and reaching Alten. They walked and boated across Finland to Haparanda in Sweden, visiting *en route*, at Muoniovara, Mr. J. Wolley, who kindly entertained them and shewed them some of his most recent discoveries in the way of eggs—such as, *Strix nyctea*, *Surnium lapponicum*, *Surnia ulula*, *Astur palumbarius*, *Garrulus infaustus*, *Ampelis garrulus*, *Scolopax gallinula*, *Mergus albellus*, and so forth. At this place they also visited the site of a Crane's nest, where two young birds had been reared that season.

In 1859 Percy Godman took up his residence at Borregaard, Sarpsborg, Norway, where he had frequent opportunities of continuing his ornithological researches, as in the neighbouring forests, amongst many other interesting or little-known birds, were to be found breeding *Bubo ignavus*, *Surnia ulula*, *Athene noctua*, *Buteo lagopus*, *Peruis apivorus*, *Pandion haliaëtus*, *Picus martius*, *Picus tridactylus*, *Parus cristatus*, *Muscicapa atricapilla*, *Scolopax rusticula*, all in



considerable numbers ; the last-named bird was frequently seen carrying its young between its legs, and once only in its claws. *Chrysomitris spinus*, *Linota linaria*, *Motacilla alba* and *Loxia curvirostra*, bred in the garden.

Godman was married on March 30th, 1869, and now resides at Muntham, Horsham. He became a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society in 1858, J.P. for Sussex in 1881, and Alderman of the West Sussex County Council in 1892.

He is one of the five surviving original members of the B. O. U.

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MR. J. H. GURNEY.

## MR. J. H. GURNEY.

By the death of John Henry Gurney, on the 20th of April, 1890, not only did the British Ornithologists' Union lose one of its Founders, but 'The Ibis' one of its most constant and munificent supporters. He was the only son of Joseph John Gurney, of Earlham, in the county of Norfolk (celebrated for the various philanthropic undertakings to which he devoted the leisure of his life), and was born on the 4th of July, 1819. At the age of ten years he was sent to a private tutor, who lived in Epping Forest. Thence he went to the Friends' School at Tottenham, and on leaving it, being then about seventeen years old, entered the banking business at Norwich, in which his family had long been so successfully engaged. His love of natural history shewed itself very early, and the writer of these lines was told by him of his getting into a serious scrape at school for dissecting a bird on a mahogany desk, which immediately afterwards revealed the secret of the use to which it had been put as an operating-table, by the stains on the polished surface from the camphorated spirit (supplied to the boys as a cure for colds, and the only antiseptic liquid available) that he had employed to avert the possibility of unpleasant odours from his "subject."

During his school-days in Essex he made the acquaintance of Mr. Henry Doubleday, of Epping, so long known for his ornithological and entomological collections, and from him obtained, in 1836, an introduction to the equally well-known Mr. T. C. Heysham, of Carlisle, with whom he kept up for many years a correspondence, chiefly on zoological matters—sending him from time to time birds, mostly obtained in Norfolk; for at this time Gurney had not begun a collection of his own. That his generosity was then as great as it continued to be in after years is shown by his letters to Heysham, which have fortunately been preserved, and have

been kindly placed at the service of the writer of this notice by their present custodian, Mr. H. A. Macpherson, giving almost the only information to be obtained as to this period of Gurney's life. They will compare well with those written by any other youthful zoologist. Zeal is, of course, to be expected in a greater or less degree, and here it is found to be in the former; but it seems to be in all cases tempered by a sober judgment; and, if a partiality be observable towards whatever relates to the zoology, and especially the ornithology, of Norfolk, it must be remembered that this was the subject on which the writer undertook to inform his correspondent, while, as the correspondence advances, what may be called its breadth of view decidedly increases. Moreover, it seems to be strictly according to the fitness of things that a young naturalist should begin by paying attention to the objects which, being the nearest to him, come the more closely under his observation, for thus he is able to proceed from the known to the unknown—the surest mode of acquiring knowledge. There have been possibly few men who could, at the age of nineteen, write as Gurney did to Heysham on the 8th of February, 1838:—

“Though I can seldom or never resist the temptation of procuring a tolerable bird in the flesh, when opportunity occurs, I care very little for them after I have once learnt them by heart, as I contrive to preserve them almost as well in my memory as I could hope to do in my cabinet. I therefore generally palm their remains off on some of my friends; because, though I know that in themselves they are often worthless, yet I always fancy that there is some interest in comparing specimens of the same bird from different localities.”

This last must have been an original observation, as it was made before the question of local variation of species had been publicly mooted! He went on to say, “it seems to me impossible that any stuffed specimen can bear much resemblance to the living bird”—a remark which, even allowing for a general improvement of the taxidermist's art, is, on the whole, as true now as it was then.

Gurney's earliest published communication seems to have been a note in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for March 1842 (vol. ix. p. 19), and it was followed by another in the same journal for June (*tom. cit.* p. 353), the subject of both being ornithological occurrences in his own county. In the next year 'The Zoologist' was established, and to this he became a frequent contributor, publishing in the volume for 1846, with the aid of Mr. W. R. Fisher, "An Account of Birds found in Norfolk," a very careful piece of work, and for a good while the most ambitious that he attempted, though he was constantly communicating short notes to that periodical, and did so for the rest of his life. When the scheme for founding 'The Ibis' was proposed, he entered warmly into it. He meant to attend the meeting held at Cambridge in the autumn of 1858, when the preliminaries were definitely arranged, but was prevented, almost at the last moment, from carrying out his intention of being present. His advice, however, was acted upon none the less, and was of great service to the other founders. He helped to mould into a practicable form various proposals then made, and liberally promised to defray the cost of a plate for each number of the new Journal, in addition to the two plates for which allowance was made in the original estimate. This charge he continued to bear for the whole of the first series of 'The Ibis,' only stipulating that the subject of each plate that he presented should be a "Bird of Prey,"—for he had already made great progress in forming the now vast and celebrated collection of "Raptores" in the Norwich Museum, to which institution he had been a donor in 1828, when he was but nine years of age. But he was by no means exclusively devoted to this group of birds. He bought a large portion of the ornithological collection formed by Mr. Wallace in the Malay Archipelago, and presented it to the Museum at King's Lynn (for which borough he sat as representative in the House of Commons from 1854 to 1865), while about the same time circumstances led him to take especial interest in the ornithology of South Africa, as is shown by his numerous papers in our pages on

collections made, almost entirely at his instigation, by Mr. Ayres in Natal and the Transvaal, and by his editing in 1872 'The Birds of Damara Land,' from the papers of his friend Charles John Andersson. Gurney's own communications to 'The Ibis' reach, if we have counted them rightly, the number of one hundred and forty, the latest being in the part issued in January 1891; and though some of them are admittedly of slight importance, it is observable of all that they deal with facts and not with fancies. As he never wrote for writing's sake, and related what he had to state in the simple and precise terms which prove the true man of science, his contributions may have sometimes seemed dull compared with the brilliant essays and darling speculations that this Journal occasionally contains from other pens; but no attentive reader can fail to discern the solid foundation on which Gurney's work rests, and the probability, if not the certainty, of its being consulted and found useful when theoretical treatises have passed out of mind.

The secret of this foundation is the accuracy of the information he possessed; and it is undeniable that in his knowledge of the Accipitres and Striges he stood alone. A great part of his information regarding the first of these groups he fortunately contributed to 'The Ibis' between 1875 and 1882, in a series of "Notes" on the first volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum,' and on its conclusion he brought out 'A List of Diurnal Birds of Prey, with References and Annotations' (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1884, p. 456), which is indispensable to all students of these birds. This was his last important work, for though he contemplated a companion work on the Nocturnal Birds of Prey, it is believed that not a word of it was written. Indeed, for the last few years the state of his health forbade his often visiting the Museum at Norwich, where alone he could carry on the examination of specimens necessary for the execution of such a work. Some twenty years ago he was affected by a disease believed to be incurable, though its fatal effects might be long delayed by strict attention to diet; and

following closely the medical advice given him his efforts were so far successful that he may be said to have enjoyed the quiet life he led in the old family-house at Northrepps, near Cromer. Though his bodily strength gradually failed, he was only seriously ill for a few days before he calmly expired.

In the foregoing remarks the ornithological aspect of Gurney's life has, as is here fitting, been chiefly dwelt upon. It must be added that at one time Fishes were as favourite an object of study with him as Birds, and in a general way he had a great taste for every branch of Zoology. As an antiquary also he was possessed of no inconsiderable knowledge. But more than this: it would be wrong to omit reference to his bountiful generosity, which not only shewed an extraordinary kindness of heart, but was bestowed with a degree of discretion and retiring modesty that doubled its utility to the recipients. The loss, through the failure of the mercantile house in which he was concerned, of the vast income that he once enjoyed certainly made no difference in the liberality of his disposition, though it lessened the amount he had for distribution, and caused it to be administered with even less ostentation. But among all qualities that he possessed, perhaps a placid temper was the most characteristic. To it may possibly have been due some of his misfortunes, but it certainly enabled him to preserve the *mens æqua in adversis*.—*A. Newton.*

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THE REV. W. H. HAWKER.



## THE REV. W. H. HAWKER.

The Rev. William Henry Hawker, of Ashford Lodge, near Petersfield, vicar of the parish of Steep, in which his property was situated, although not an actual contributor to 'The Ibis' was a personal friend of many of us, and an ardent supporter of natural science. He was, moreover, one of the original members of the British Ornithologists' Union.

Mr. Hawker was the fifth son of the late Admiral Hawker, and was born in Dec. 1827. He was educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge, and, after taking his degree, studied at Wells for the Church. After taking Orders, he was for some years curate of Idsworth, near Horndean, in the south of Hampshire, and removed to Ashford some time after succeeding to that property in 1860. Mr. Hawker was owner of a considerable collection of British birds and insects; he was an ardent entomologist and an excellent botanical collector. He made frequent excursions in various parts of Europe, particularly in Norway, Switzerland, the Maritime Alps of Savoy, and the Islands of Corsica and Sardinia. He was an active member of the Alpine Club, and contributed several valuable papers to the 'Alpine Journal,' among which we may mention an account of his travels in Corsica in the spring of 1866, as containing much matter interesting to naturalists. He was a good sportsman, a keen shot and fisherman. Mr. Hawker died, after a short illness, on the 26th of May, 1874, at the early age of forty-six years.

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MR. A. E. KNOX.

## MR. A. E. KNOX.

Arthur Edward Knox was born in Dublin on the 28th of December, 1808. He was the eldest son of the late Mr. John Knox, of Castlerea, in the county of Mayo (who died in 1861), the descendant of a branch of the Scottish family of that name which had settled in Ireland early in the seventeenth century\*. He entered Brazenose College in the University of Oxford—where he graduated M.A.—and obtained a commission in the Second Regiment of Life-Guards, from which he retired about the time of his marriage, in 1835, with Lady Jane Parsons, daughter of the second Earl of Rosse, and therefore sister to the constructor of the famous telescope. Mr. Knox soon after took up his abode near Pagham, on the coast of Sussex, and there began a course of observations on the birds of that county, the results of which have appeared in his two best-known works. A few years later he removed to New Grove, near Petworth, subsequently to St. Ann's Hill, Midhurst, about 1860 to Trotton House, near Petersfield, and finally to Dale Park, Arundel. His first published notes appeared in 'The Zoologist' for 1843; and, in 1849, he brought out his 'Ornithological Rambles in Sussex: with a Systematic Catalogue of the Birds of that County'—the precursor of many works of similar local scope, few of which, however, have equalled it as regards personal experience, while none have surpassed it in spirit. A favourable notice by his friend and country-neighbour, the late Bishop Wilberforce, in the 'Quarterly Review,' not only helped the sale of this little book, so that a second and a third edition appeared in 1850 and 1855 respectively, but encouraged the immediate

\* See Dr. Charles Rogers's 'Genealogical Memoirs of John Knox and the Family of Knox' (pp. 33-40), printed for the Grampian Club in 1879.

publication of another—'Game Birds and Wild Fowl'—of no less merit, though herein the author shews more of the sportsman than the ornithologist. A scientific ornithologist, indeed, Mr. Knox never professed to be; but, so far from being one of the many popular writers who because they know not science affect to despise its teachings, he held it in the utmost respect; and in November 1858, when there was considerable doubt whether the required score of members for the B. O. U. would be secured, he took the greatest interest in the project, became one of the Founders, and contributed a pleasantly written little paper to the first volume of this Journal ('Ibis,' 1859, pp. 395–397). Mr. Knox's last work was 'Autumn on the Spey,' published in 1872, and its frontispiece will give to those who knew him not some idea of his personal appearance, though to them no conception can be conveyed of his genial nature, his fund of humour, and his varied accomplishments—among which mention may be made of his power as a draughtsman, though this may be judged by the plates to the now rare original edition of his first work. His collection of birds, formed almost entirely in Sussex, he gave, on breaking up his establishment at Trotton, to his long-attached friend the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, to be preserved at Goodwood House; but on the Duke's death it was handed over to Mrs. Fletcher, Knox's daughter. He died on the 23rd of September, 1886, at Dale Park, near Arundel, where Mrs. Fletcher still resides.

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MR. E. C. NEWCOME.

## MR. E. C. NEWCOME.

The best friends of 'The Ibis' have not been limited to those whose names have appeared oftenest, or even at any time, in its pages. In this country ornithology has many of its warmest supporters among men who scarcely ever publish a line on the subject. Such a one was Edward Clough Newcome, an original Member of the B. O. U., who died on the 22nd of September, 1871, having nearly completed his sixty-second year. Devotedly attached from his boyhood to field-sports, and having abundant opportunities for their enjoyment, his undoubted preference was for such as brought him more especially into contact with the wilder and less-known kinds of birds; and being a close and accurate observer, his knowledge of their habits and peculiarities was of extraordinary extent. As an efficient falconer he was, perhaps, unequalled, whether by professionals or amateurs; and for many years he was, in England, almost the sole and certainly the most influential supporter of that ancient and nearly obsolete sport. In the pursuit of what are ordinarily termed "wild fowl," and in the exercise of the various modes by which they are procured, he had attained an aptitude little, if at all, inferior to that of men whose livelihood depends on the successful practice of their vocation. But experience in the field was not all; one of his favourite employments was the formation of a collection of British birds: and this, consisting almost entirely of specimens preserved and set up by his own hands, was at the time one of the best of its kind in the kingdom, whether for the completeness and rarity of its contents or for the artistic taste and ornithological truth with which they were mounted. Some of the species in it were represented by the only examples supposed to have been obtained in Britain. Such were the Rock-Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*), the Capped

Petrel (*Estrelata hesitata*--which he himself rescued from the hands of his hawking-boy), and the Lineated Buzzard (*Buteo lineatus*). Mr. Newcome's single contribution to ornithological literature was, we believe, limited to a brief notice in this Journal ('Ibis,' 1865, p. 549) of the bird last mentioned; but he was always ready cheerfully to communicate the results of his long experience to others, and the writers were not few who availed themselves of his knowledge of the particular subjects in which he was so great a proficient.—*A. Newton.*

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PROFESSOR ALFRED NEWTON.



## PROFESSOR ALFRED NEWTON.

Death was busy in 1907 among the original members of the British Ornithologists' Union. Not to mention the name of Osbert Salvin, whose death occurred some nine years previously, those of Edward Cavendish Taylor and Henry Baker Tristram must not be forgotten; but greatest loss of all was that of Alfred Newton, who died at Magdalene College, Cambridge, on the 7th of June of that year. By a curious coincidence, this happened to be the day of the celebration of the bi-centenary of Linnæus, and the sad news, as it circulated among the Fellows of the Linnean Society, served to cast a gloom over the proceedings of the evening.

Alfred Newton was born at Geneva on the 11th June, 1829, and thus, at the time of his decease, only wanted four days of completing his 78th year. He was one of a large family of brothers and sisters, and his father was the owner of the well-known estate of Elveden (called in those days "Elden"), on the borders of Suffolk and Norfolk, famous for its partridges. In fact, the eldest brother, William, one of the few survivors of the Coldstreams at Inkerman, and the youngest brother, Edward, well known to many of the members of the B. O. U., ranked amongst the crack partridge-shots of their day. Nor was Alfred at all averse to this sport, though his lameness, the result of an accident during childhood, was always a bar to any great physical exertion. Perhaps it was this cause which rendered him the more contemplative and observant of the features of the very interesting district in which it was his good fortune to spend his early years.

He was educated at home and at a private school, but when he came to Cambridge as an undergraduate in 1848, he was already a thorough-going naturalist, both by nature

and by habit. For this reason, perhaps, the ordinary *curriculum* of the University was distasteful to him; nor was his early devotion to natural history always regarded with approval at home, being considered unlikely to conduce to success in after life. Yet he obtained a considerable reputation in his College as an essayist in English, and his love for natural history was the making of him, though no one exactly anticipated the distinguished career that he was destined to achieve. Had he chosen the law as his profession, which might well have been the case, he would have made an excellent barrister, and there is nothing he would have enjoyed more thoroughly than the cross-examination of a prevaricating witness.

Newton was elected to the Drury travelling fellowship, for the sons of Norfolk gentlemen, at Magdalene in 1853, shortly after taking his B.A. degree, and went abroad for several years in pursuit of the knowledge which most interested him. To anticipate: some time after the travelling fellowship had expired, viz. in 1877, his College elected him to a Foundation Fellowship, and he continued to reside in the Old Lodge at Magdalene, which had been his headquarters for some years previously.

In the course of his many journeys, Newton's predilections seemed to favour the Arctic. Thus we find him the companion of John Wolley in Lapland during the summer of 1855. Again, in 1858 he accompanied his friend to the last home of the Great Auk, or "Garefowl" as he loved to call it, in Iceland, and spent the early part of a rather miserable summer in that island. The last of his northern excursions took place in 1864, when he accompanied Sir E. Birkbeck in his yacht to Spitsbergen. Meanwhile he did not neglect more southern climes, since we find him in the West Indies in 1857, whence he proceeded to the U.S. of America, partly for the purpose of conferring with the naturalists of Philadelphia and Washington. Again, in 1862 we find him crossing the Atlantic, but he returned to England in January of the following year, the paper in 'The Ibis' relating to his experiences at Madeira being dated "Elveden, Feb. 28th,

1863." Moreover, this was the last time that Newton dated from the paternal mansion, which was shortly to be occupied by the Maharajah Dhuleep Singh. It must not be supposed that Newton never travelled in subsequent years, but it is probable that the period of his great travels was over at the time that he was elected to the newly constituted Chair of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at Cambridge in March 1866. This event would act as a stay upon him, and may naturally be regarded as the turning-point in his career.

We must now, as in private duty bound, consider Alfred Newton in his relations to the B. O. U. There may have been some mistake lately made as to the precise share that he took in its foundation, but we have only to read the preface to the first volume of 'The Ibis,' when the facts were fresh in the Editor's (Dr. Selater) recollection, in order to perceive that it was not only founded at Cambridge, but that it was to a considerable extent planned there; and we may feel sure that Alfred Newton's influence, as the leading ornithologist in the University, had its due weight in establishing it. The question of founding an ornithological union was certainly discussed at the meeting of the British Association at Leeds in September 1858, where men from Cambridge, including Wolley and Newton, enjoyed the advantage of conferring with representatives of the sister University.

No sooner was the B. O. U. founded than Alfred Newton became an important contributor to 'The Ibis.' Not to mention his joint paper on the "Birds of St. Croix," we find in the first two volumes certain unsigned communications which are in singular contrast to each other, and which shew the different phases of his character. The first of these is a review of Bree's 'Birds of Europe not observed in the British Isles,' and this serves to illustrate the critical side of Newton's mind, as he never could endure anything like inaccuracy. But he went a step beyond what is usual in criticizing in anticipation that portion of Bree's work which had not yet appeared. The second communication, viz. "A Memoir of the late John Wolley," displays the

other side of Newton's character. He gives an interesting and, we may be sure, accurate history of his friend, and the concluding paragraph of this essay—an essay subsequently expanded in the Introduction to the 'Ootheca Wolleyana'—affords an insight into his truth-loving and affectionate nature. This was followed by two important papers in the third volume, viz., "Particulars of Mr. J. Wolley's Discovery of the Breeding of the Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*)" and "Abstract of Mr. J. Wolley's Researches in Iceland respecting the Garefowl or Great Auk (*Alca impennis*).” Thus we perceive that he lost no time in doing justice to the labours of his deceased friend, whilst he was also making valuable contributions to ornithology. His last great paper in the first series of 'The Ibis' was on the "Irruption of Pallas's Sandgrouse (*Syrhaptus paradoxus*) in 1863." This, as usual, he wished to defer until further information had been obtained, but he was prevailed upon to write whilst the subject was still fresh in the mind of the public. The paper concludes with a strongly-worded protest against the inhospitable treatment of these interesting Siberian migrants in search of a new home. Some years afterwards (1888) there was another irruption, especially into Scotland, and Newton had the pleasure of receiving a newly-hatched chick from the sand-hills of the Moray Firth, which he exhibited at the ensuing meeting of the British Association, and which was duly figured in 'The Ibis' (1890, pl. vii.).

It may be mentioned here that there were two subjects in which Newton was specially interested, and on which he occasionally wrote in 'The Ibis.' The first of these relates to the Avifauna, existing and extinct, of the Mascarene Islands. He managed, in conjunction with his brother Edward, sometime Colonial Secretary of the Mauritius, to procure a fine series of bones of the Dodo from that island, and also of the Solitaire of Rodriguez (*Pezophaps solitarius*). He remarks that "a more wonderful structure than the Dodo's skeleton it is not easy for an ornithologist to conceive." The second of the two subjects relates to the Great Auk, which he may be said to have inherited from Wolley,

and on which he was engaged at the time of his death. He made a sort of census of the remains of this bird known to exist about 1870, and returned them as consisting of 72 skins, 9 skeletons, the separate bones of about 40 individuals, and 65 eggs. His last notice respecting it in 'The Ibis' was written in 1898, when he described, not without a touch of emotion, the "Orcaidian Home of the Gargewl," and referred to the tragedy of 1813 (*op. cit.* p. 587). His annual cruise with the late Henry Evans in Scottish waters gave him the desired opportunity, and he succeeded in discovering a low platform of rock, protected by the larger island of Papa Westray, where there would be room "for a regiment of Auks to have landed at any state of the tide, and to have marched in line up the gentle ascent."

From 1865 to 1870 Newton edited the second series of 'The Ibis,' and we may be sure that due attention was paid to the notices of works on ornithology, whether published at home or abroad. He was ably supported, as the Editors have been at all times, and, in resigning the editorship in October 1870, pleaded that engagements no less pressing than numerous had for some time past urged upon him the advisability of retiring, and he announced Osbert Salvin as his successor.

His retirement was scarcely to be wondered at, for Professor Newton was becoming a public character, and must have had his hands full of work for some time. He was never idle, and if not occupied with his studies at Cambridge, he was either fighting in London and elsewhere for the cause of Bird-Protection, or writing long articles, especially in the 'Field,' or providing an appendix to this or that publication. Whenever there was a question of Birds everybody turned towards Newton. He had to prepare an appendix to Baring-Gould's 'Iceland,' to the 'Arctic Manual,' to Lubbock's 'Fauna of Norfolk,' &c. This last appendix, dealing with the subject of "Hawking in Norfolk," is particularly interesting, as Newton had had considerable personal experience in this matter, having frequently accompanied his former neighbour, the late

Edward Clough Newcome (an original member of the B. O. U.) on his expeditions. This gentleman, as is well known, endeavoured to resuscitate the favourite sport of the Middle Ages, and for some years carried on the pursuit with considerable success in the wilds of South-west Norfolk.

When not specially engaged at Cambridge, Newton was by no means neglectful of the Royal, the Zoological, and other Societies, and was often a conspicuous figure at the meetings of the British Association. He also took much interest in the 'Zoological Record.' He was chairman of the Close-Time Committee and of the British Association Committee on the Migration of Birds. Elected F.R.S. in 1870, he was a Vice-President both of the Royal and Zoological Societies. Somewhat late in life (1901) he was awarded one of the Royal Medals, and Lord Lister took occasion to remark that the progress of Ornithology in this country was due mainly to his "critical, suggestive, and stimulating influence." In the same year he was also awarded the gold medal of the Linnean Society.

As an ornithological writer Newton obtained a world-wide reputation. Amongst his numerous publications we might perhaps select the first two volumes of the fourth edition of 'Yarrell,' the 'Dictionary of Birds,' and the 'Ootheca Wolleyana' for special notice. There can be no doubt that a great impulse was given to the study of British Birds by his preparation of the fourth edition of 'Yarrell,' which, so far as he went, was thoroughly brought up to date. But here comes in one of Prof. Newton's peculiarities. The first volume appeared in 1874, and the second was not completed until 1882—rather a long time for the subscribers to remain in suspense. The fact is that the Editor was always content to wait for fresh matter rather than turn out an imperfect piece of work, and so the fourth edition of 'Yarrell' was finished—and well finished—by another hand. The 'Dictionary of Birds' stands on a somewhat different footing. We have already seen that, when the subject of Birds had to be dealt with, editors and publishers always turned to Alfred Newton; and thus it came to pass that during the

publication of the ninth edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' he was chosen, as a matter of course, to write about Birds. That he was one of the most valued contributors to that very useful publication no one can doubt, and the numerous articles bearing his signature have been incorporated, with some additions and emendations, in the 'Dictionary of Birds,' to which also other writers of eminence have contributed. The article "Birds," for instance, is essentially composite, whilst that on "Fossil Birds" has been largely reconstructed with the help of Mr. Lydekker, and formed the subject of an address delivered before the Second International Ornithological Congress at Budapest in 1891. The article "Ornithology" is Newton's very own and embodies in a most condensed form the results of his long experience. That there still remained a touch of caustic in the author can be inferred from a note in the Introduction, where he expresses a hope that persons indifferent to the pleasures of Natural History may find in it (*i. e.* in the Dictionary) some corrections to the erroneous impressions commonly conveyed by sciolists posing as instructors.

The 'Ootheca Wolleyana' has been justly described as a monumental work, since, as the editor and joint-author remarks, it is largely a record of ancient friendships. It may be safely asserted that none but the late editor possessed the knowledge to undertake or the perseverance to execute this enormous compendium of oological research. The whole of the huge Wolley collection of Birds' Eggs had devolved upon him, and this, in conjunction with his own accumulations of over half a century, he presented in his lifetime to the University of Cambridge.

Hitherto we have regarded Newton mainly as an ornithologist, but we must also consider him in the more extended domain of Zoology, bearing in mind that he occupied that chair at Cambridge for a period of forty-one years. From early days he evinced considerable interest in the anatomy of vertebrates, and especially in osteology, which he certainly was very competent to teach.

One of the most distinguished of his many pupils says of him:—"As to his lectures, these, despite the fact that he was to a great extent a specialist in ornithology, covered a very wide field, in which, however, the systematic and distributional aspects of the subject loomed large." His paper (1862) before the Cambridge Philosophical Society, of which body he was a Vice-President at the time of his death, on the "Zoology of Ancient Europe," shewed his grasp of locality; and indeed he had at all times a most extensive acquaintance with geography. Moreover, he was very facile with the pencil, and this helped him materially in demonstration. His 'Manual of Zoology' is said to enjoy a good reputation, and a second edition was issued in 1894.

In close connexion with his professional duties was his attention to the Museum of Zoology, another object of devotion in addition to his Egg-collection. During the last forty years the Museum of Zoology at Cambridge has been greatly expanded, and no one worked more assiduously in his own line than the Professor. Some men are born collectors, and Newton was one of them. He not only collected himself, but he induced others to collect, so that, in consequence of his world-wide correspondence, there has been a constant flow of treasures into the Cambridge Museum.

But Newton did not confine his attention solely to objects of Natural History, for he possessed the collector's knack of acquiring old books, old MSS., old maps, &c., mostly bearing on his favourite subjects. It seems that in the ninth edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica' there is no article on Museums, and consequently he prepared a paper for the special delectation of the "Museums Association," which was duly read at one of their meetings.

There are some amusing incidents narrated in this essay, and amongst others the fate of the Leverian Museum, which seems to have been refused by the Trustees of the British Museum when offered in 1775. Ultimately, in 1806, the collection was sold piecemeal, the sale lasting, off and on, for 62 days. As a curiosity, Newton was able to exhibit a



copy of the sale-catalogue. Another instance may be given, viz., when Dr. Bowdler Sharpe was writing the 'History of the Collection of Birds in the British Museum,' Newton was able to lend him a copy of the sale-catalogue of Bullock's Collection, of which only two copies are known. The same authority also informs us that the naturalists visiting Cambridge, at the time of the International Ornithological Congress of 1905, greatly enjoyed an inspection of his literary curiosities, including his library of rare and choice ornithological works. These with many other treasures have been bequeathed to the University of Cambridge.

As the author of an article entitled "The Early Days of Darwinism" (Macmillan's Magazine, 1888), Prof. Newton's views on the subject of "Organic Evolution" are not without interest. He is said to have been an early convert, but in point of fact he was in a condition ready for conversion some time before the appearance of the 'Origin of Species' (in the autumn of 1859). Both he and his philosophic friend, Wolley, had concluded that the idea, then prevalent, of special creations was out of harmony with the facts they had been observing for many years. Wolley died just about the time when Darwin's book came out; but Newton at once perceived that Darwin's explanation went a long way towards solving his own difficulties, and he simply adopted the new philosophy, not being in need of conversion. In the above-mentioned article he has told the story very well, and his narrative of events at Oxford in 1860 provides an excellent account of that memorable meeting.

His familiar figure will be missed for many a year at Cambridge, for though Newton had ceased to lecture, he continued to work at his collections, and to exercise that social influence in his College and in the University which so endeared him to more than one generation of students. On the whole, he may be considered to have been fortunate in the period wherein his lot was cast—a period when increased facilities for travel were opening out regions hitherto inaccessible to the explorer and the naturalist. For instance, he lived to see the veil lifted from such countries as Central Asia and

Central Africa, which were complete blanks in the maps of half a century ago. Of course, in this respect, he merely shared the advantages with others of his contemporaries who were equally ready to profit by them. Still, it must be borne in mind that such discoveries and acquisitions have their limits, and cannot be repeated in the history of exploration. It is so much to his credit, therefore, that he made the most of the opportunities thus afforded; and if we view his character broadly, as a student of nature and a self-taught man in his early years, as an enthusiastic man of science in later life, and at all times as a firm friend and a genial companion, we recognise one who was *sui generis* in his day and representative of a type not likely to be replaced.

This notice must not close without a special allusion to Professor Newton's great kindness to students of ornithology less advanced than himself. Always encouraging and stimulating their efforts, he rendered them every assistance in his power, and his library was ever at their service. In this respect alone his death has created a blank which it will be impossible to fill.—*W. H. Huddleston.*

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SIR EDWARD NEWTON.

## SIR EDWARD NEWTON.

Sir Edward Newton was one of the eight founders who formulated the idea of the British Ornithologists' Union and of 'The Ibis,' and combined to make the original twenty members, to which number the B. O. U. was for some time strictly limited. Edward, the youngest son of William Newton, Esq., formerly M.P. for Ipswich, was born at his father's seat, Elveden Hall, Norfolk, on the 10th of November, 1832. Very early in life he developed his innate love for ornithology, stimulated doubtless by the example and companionship of his elder brother Alfred, and at the age of twelve years penned his first published paper on the subject, which appeared in the 'Zoologist' for 1845 (p. 1024), shewing that at that early age he knew his Yarrell, and also his Bewick and Montagu. Delicate health as a boy necessitated his education being conducted chiefly at home, a circumstance most fortunate for the development of his zoological tastes. For several years after his first essay he continued to contribute notes to the 'Zoologist,' chiefly on the arrivals of migrants and on nidification at Elveden and elsewhere, and was becoming an adept at discovering birds'-nests. This power he obtained by close observation of the habits of the different species, and no warrener could surpass him in the way in which, by watching the birds, he could find their nests or make them shew him where their nests were. This he did as a true naturalist, for the love of watching his favourites and learning their ways, much more than with the object of taking their eggs. The writer well remembers, when, in later years, during a walk with him, Sir Edward suddenly turned round and stood still. On being asked what was the matter, he replied, "Do you not see that Stonechat in the bush ahead? She has a nest, and we will find it. Do not face her." He stood sideways for some minutes, but never

lost sight of the bird, and presently walked on straight to the spot, where, at once, he shewed the nest with eggs. He was the best field-naturalist the writer ever knew, as regards the actions and movements of any bird. It seemed to be with him a sort of instinct.

Newton proceeded in due course to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1857, all the while extending his knowledge, especially of the inhabitants of the marshes accessible from Cambridge. The next year he visited the paternal estates in the West Indies, and was in the island of St. Croix from March 4th to September 28th, 1858. The results of this visit are recorded in a series of four admirable papers in 'The Ibis' (vol. i. 1859), written in conjunction with his brother, Prof. A. Newton, papers which bespeak the true naturalist in their every line, and which we can only wish were followed by writers who seem to think nothing further is needed than a diagnosis of the species and its dimensions.

In 1859 Newton entered the Colonial Service, being appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary of Mauritius. The avifauna of the Mascarene Islands was then scarcely known in Europe, and had remained neglected since the days of Buffon. Keen anticipations were entertained by his brother naturalists that Edward Newton, if he might not resuscitate the Dodo, would at least throw some light on its history, and they were not disappointed. His official career was as follows:—Auditor-General of Mauritius 1863; Colonial Secretary of Mauritius 1868-77; Lieut.-Governor and Colonial Secretary of Jamaica 1877-83. He several times administered the Government both of Mauritius and Jamaica. He was made C.M.G. in 1875, and K.C.M.G. in 1887. In 1869 he married Mary Louisa Craunstoun, daughter of W. W. R. Kerr, Esq., Treasurer of Mauritius: she died in 1870.

During his long residence in Mauritius Newton made several distant expeditions. His first was to Round Island, of which he gave an interesting account in 'The Ibis' (1861, p. 180). In Sept. 1861 he was sent on an official visit to King Radama of Madagascar to congratulate him on

his accession, being the first Englishman to enter Antananarivo for many years. The ornithological results of this expedition were recorded in 'The Ibis' for 1862, pp. 94 & 265. In the autumn of the following year (1863) he paid a second visit to Madagascar, not officially, but solely for the purpose of ornithology, of which the history will be found in 'The Ibis,' 1863, pp. 333 *et seqq.*, 452 *et seqq.* In Nov. 1864 he made an expedition to Rodriguez, which yielded rich results, as recorded by him in 'The Ibis' (1865, p. 146), "Reports" of the British Association (1865, p. 92), and 'Philosophical Transactions' (Transit volume, 1869). In the spring of 1867 he visited the Seychelles, where he discovered a number of new and unsuspected species, which he described in P. Z. S. 1867, pp. 344, 821, and 'The Ibis,' 1867, pp. 535 *et seqq.* Though he never had an opportunity of visiting Anjuan or any of the Comoros, yet he contributed largely to our knowledge of their avifaunas by inducing Mr. Bewsher to visit them and collect. His notes on them will be found in P. Z. S. 1877, p. 295.

To summarize his work, while officially resident in Mauritius, not fewer than 27 new species of living birds were brought to our knowledge by him from the Mascarene Islands, Madagascar, and the Comoros; but he was wholly indifferent as to who described them, so long as this was properly done. No less than 10 of these were from the Seychelles. Fifteen of his discoveries were named by his brother, by Dr. Hartlaub, and others. In his Presidential Address to the Norfolk Naturalists' Society (1888), Sir Edward gave an admirable popular summary of the avifauna of the Mascarenes, with picturesque descriptions of extinct species, so far as they can be ascertained, and vivid sketches of the physical character of the islands. The address is replete with warnings that like causes are bringing about, though in a slower degree, like results in our own island, and he points out how the danger may possibly be averted. It is much to be regretted that this address has not been republished in some more permanent form.

In Jamaica his official duties were incessant and harassing,

while his health, already severely tried in Mauritius, began to be seriously affected by the climate. He had little or no time for researches, and could but rarely leave his post. Nevertheless he did what he could. He made an almost complete collection of the birds of the island, and the "List of the Birds of Jamaica," published in the 'Handbook of Jamaica,' 1881, p. 103, adds not a little to the standard work of Gosse.

Newton's investigations of the extinct fauna of the Mascarenes claim special notice. It is not easy to state precisely what we owe him in the way of discovery of extinct species. To his care and encouragement was largely owing the success of Mr. Clarke in the original researches in the Mare aux Songes, where the great find of Dodo-remains was effected. There are several species from Rodriguez described by Milne-Edwards, and again by Newton and Dr. Günther in the Transit volume of the Phil. Trans., and by Newton and Gadow in an article on the remains discovered in Mauritius by Sauzier (Trans. Z. S. xiii. p. 281, 1893). Newton was certainly the first to recognise among the bones from the Mare aux Songes those of *Aphanapteryx*, which he instantly referred to the bird just previously described by Frauenfeld from the old Vienna picture.

For the last five years Sir Edward's health was perceptibly declining. Yet, though always more or less of an invalid, his interest in the pursuits of his more vigorous days never flagged, as witness the paper last referred to. The unselfish modesty which marked all his natural-history work was equally conspicuous in his daily life. His whole nature was the very opposite of self-asserting. There was a delightful charm in the simplicity and genuineness of the man, which won the hearts of all who knew him well; and looking back on a friendship of forty years, the writer can but feel it to have been a high privilege to have known one in whose character were blended all the qualities that go to make the careful, truthful naturalist, and the refined Christian gentleman. He died at Lowestoft on April 25th, 1897.



SIR J. W. POWLETT-ORDE.



## SIR J. W. POWLETT CAMPBELL-ORDE.

Sir John William Powlett Campbell-Orde, of North Uist and Kilmory, Bart., was born in 1827 and was one of the twenty Founders and original Members of the British Ornithologists' Union, of whom four only now remain on the list. He joined the 42nd Royal Highlanders from Eton in 1846. The regiment, consisting then of two battalions, was stationed in Bermuda. There was at that time in the regiment a little band of zealous naturalists, and every branch of natural history had its votaries. Our first President, Colonel H. M. Drummond-Hay, and Lieut.-Colonel Wedderburn were the chief ornithologists; and young Orde, already a keen sportsman, was soon inspired by them with an ardent love for bird-life. He was a careful observer of the habits of birds, and collected diligently, wherever his regiment happened to be stationed, at home and abroad. As will be seen from our General Subject-Index, he wrote many letters on ornithological subjects to 'The Ibis.' He retired from the army on his marriage, after ten years' service. On succeeding to his father's title and estates in Argyllshire and Uist, Orde quickly made himself thoroughly well acquainted with public matters, and filled many offices connected with county business. He was Deputy Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace for Argyllshire and Inverness-shire. Not forgetting ornithology, Sir John paid special attention to the protection of the rarer species of birds in North Uist, and continued up to the time of his death to add to his collection. The gem of this he considered to be a fine male example of *Fuligula Rufina*, obtained in Argyllshire, which is believed to be the only recorded Scottish specimen. While spending a few days at Kilmory, the writer of this notice was much interested in looking over Sir John's notes, especially those on the birds which he had observed in Nova Scotia. He died at his residence, Kilmory House, on the 13th of October, 1897.



LORD LILFORD.

## LORD LILFORD.

Thomas Lyttleton Powys, fourth Baron Lilford, born 18th March, 1833, was the son of the third peer by the Hon. Mary Elizabeth Fox, daughter of the third Lord Holland. Even when at Harrow he had begun to contribute to the 'Zoologist,' and he continued to do so while at Christ Church, Oxford, as well as during his vacations; while it is hardly necessary to say that his subsequent letters and articles in that and other periodicals only ceased with his life. He was for many years President of the British Ornithologists' Union, and an original member of the brotherhood formed in November 1858. His first communication to 'The Ibis' was in 1860, on the birds observed in the Ionian Islands and on the coast of Albania, &c., in the years 1857 and 1858: a very breezy, pleasant series of articles, with just the flavour of sport about the natural history that a new publication wanted. To these succeeded—in 1865 and 1866—some charming notes on Spain, which he had visited in 1856 and again in 1864. Lord Lilford was so delighted with the country that he not only returned in 1869, but devoted himself to working up the ornithology of the southern portion; and that he did not write about his experiences in the marismas of the Guadalquivir was probably due to his delicate aversion for anything like trespassing upon the ground worked by others. His liking for everything Spanish led him to learn that language; but his natural aptitude for such study must have been considerable, for in 1869, when the writer had the pleasure of making his personal acquaintance in Seville, he spoke Castilian admirably, and also its dialects, with a raciness acquired by few Englishmen. In 1873 and 1874, Lord Lilford—already somewhat crippled by the rheumatic gout, to which he had long been subject, and to which he

subsequently became a martyr—visited the Italian shores of the Mediterranean in the yacht ‘Zara’; and on that excursion he rediscovered that rare Gull *Larus audouini*, of which no one had seen a fresh specimen for many a year. In 1875 portions of Cyprus were visited, as will be mentioned hereafter. In the same yacht, in the spring of 1876, he went to Santander and the neighbouring parts of North-western Spain; but it fell to the lot of his friend, Lt.-Col. Irby, to give an account of the avifauna of this district (‘Ibis,’ 1883, p. 173). In the early part of 1882 the Mediterranean again attracted his attention, and another haunt of Audouin’s Gull was explored—not to mention a previous discovery of it on an islet which was not named in print, though an open secret for the discreet. But these voyages had to be abandoned at last, and the personal exploration of Cyprus was reserved for Dr. Guillemard and others, though Lord Lilford contributed to the expedition with his wonted liberality and wrote a list of the birds of that island. Henceforward he devoted himself to work at home: his magnificent aviaries, where birds could be observed in a state of freedom only second to that of nature; his natural-history correspondence; his ‘Birds of Northamptonshire’; and his ‘Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands.’ Always an ardent sportsman, Lord Lilford took an active part in hawking as long as he could; he constructed a decoy in the valley of the Nene, and even at the last, when confined to a bath-chair, he attended a meet of the otter-hounds in his neighbourhood. Although he had been ailing, the end came unexpectedly on June 17th, 1896, with a sudden attack of syncope, and on the 20th he was buried at Achurch, near Lilford Hall, amid widespread and general mourning.

It is impossible to specify Lord Lilford’s acts of liberality with regard to this Journal. Whenever money was wanted for an illustration, or the balance in hand was low, he only required an intimation. This generosity was by no means confined to ‘The Ibis’ and kindred works on science; the Zoological Society’s Gardens were constantly enriched by

his gifts; and we have heard it stated that his anonymous benefactions were more than double those with which his name was associated. To his intimate knowledge of wild animals and their ways he added an excellent judgment, and few were better qualified to hold the balance between the sportsman on the one side and the well-meaning, but often unpractical, lover of birds on the other. A good sportsman, a thorough naturalist, and a genial companion, his death was a general loss to the ornithological world.

The following is a list of Lord Lilford's principal publications on ornithology:—

- Notes on Birds observed in the Ionian Islands, and the Provinces of Albania proper, Epirus, Acarnania, and Montenegro. *Ibis*, 1860, p. 1, p. 133, p. 228, and p. 338.
- On the Extinction in Europe of the Common Francolin (*Francolinus vulgaris*, Steph.). *Ibis*, 1862, p. 352.
- Notes on the Ornithology of Spain. *Ibis*, 1865, p. 165; 1866, p. 173 and p. 377.
- Letter on the Occurrence of *Calandrella reboudia* [*C. bœtica*, Dresser] and *Numenius hudsonicus* in Spain. *Ibis*, 1873, p. 98.
- Cruise of the 'Zara,' R.Y.S., in the Mediterranean. *Ibis*, 1875, p. 1.
- Exhibition of some specimens of Hybrid Pheasants. *P. Z. S.* 1880, p. 421.
- On the Breeding of the Flamingo in Southern Spain. *P. Z. S.* 1880, p. 446.
- Letter on a probably new locality for *Larus audouini*. *Ibis*, 1880, p. 480.
- Notes on the Birds of Northamptonshire. *Journ. Northampt. Nat. Hist. Soc.* i. (1880-83).
- Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a skin of *Emberiza rustica*. *P. Z. S.* 1882, p. 721.
- Notes on the Birds of Seville. *Ibis*, 1883, p. 233.
- Rare Birds in Andalucia. *Ibis*, 1884, p. 124.
- Notes on Mediterranean Ornithology. *Ibis*, 1887, p. 261.
- Exhibition of a specimen of *Aquila rapax* from Southern Spain. *P. Z. S.* 1888, p. 248.
- Pallas's Sand-Grouse in Spain. *Zoologist*, 1888, p. 301.
- Notes on Raptorial Birds in the Lilford Aviaries. *Trans. Norfolk & Norw. Nat. Soc.* iv. p. 564 (1888).
- A List of the Birds of Cyprus. *Ibis*, 1889, p. 305.
- A Large Race of the Great Grey Shrike. *Zoologist*, 1890, p. 108.
- Notes on Birds in the Lilford Aviaries. *Trans. Norfolk & Norw. Nat. Soc.* v. p. 128 (1891).

- Letter on the Nesting-habits of the Bustard-Quail (*Turnix nigricollis*).  
Ibis, 1892, p. 467.
- Variety of *Grus cinerea* in Spain. Zoologist, 1892, p. 265.
- Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a skin of a Duck believed to be a  
Hybrid between the Mallard (*Anas boschas*) and the Teal (*Quer-  
quedula crecca*). P. Z. S. 1895, p. 2.
- Exhibition of, and remarks upon, a specimen of the American Wigeon  
(*Mareca americana*). P. Z. S. 1895, p. 273.
- Brünnich's Guillemot in Cambridgeshire. Zoologist, 1895, p. 109.
- Notes on the Birds of Northamptonshire and Neighbourhood. Illustrated  
by Messrs. A. Thorburn & G. E. Lodge and a Map. Royal 8vo.  
London, 1895.
- Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands. Parts i.-xxxii.  
Royal 8vo. London, 1885-96.
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MR. OSBERT SALVIN.

## MR. OSBERT SALVIN.

Osbert Salvin, at the time of his death the Secretary of the British Ornithologists' Union, died at his residence, Hawksfold, in Sussex, on the 1st of June, 1898.

He was the second son of the well-known architect Mr. Anthony Salvin, of Hawksfold, near Haslemere, in Sussex. Born in 1835, Salvin was educated at Westminster and afterwards at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated as Senior Optime in the Mathematical Tripos of 1857. Shortly after taking his degree, he went, in company with Mr. W. Hudleston Simpson (now Hudleston), to Northern Africa, to join the Rev. H. B. Tristram, in studying the natural history of Tunisia and Eastern Algeria. An account of this Expedition appeared in the first volume of 'The Ibis' (1859), under the title of "Five Months' Birds'-nesting in the Eastern Atlas." It is hardly necessary to say that Salvin was one of the original Members of the British Ornithologists' Union, and in fact the very first paper published in 'The Ibis' was written by him in conjunction with Selater. The subject was the "Ornithology of Central America," Salvin having made the first of several visits to Guatemala in 1857, the second being in 1859. The number of his contributions to 'The Ibis' may be judged from the fact that they extend over more than two columns in the General Subject-Index. In 1861 Salvin returned again to Guatemala in company with his life-long friend Mr. F. D. Godman. It was during this journey that the 'Biologia Centrali-Americana' was planned by the two friends, and although Salvin did not live to see the publication completed, the co-editorship of that monumental work was his pre-occupation for the rest of his life. Salvin remained in Guatemala for two years, returning there again in 1873 for one year.



In 1871 Salvin undertook the editorship of the third series of 'The Ibis,' and, in co-operation with Selater, concluded the fourth series in 1882. Meanwhile he had been appointed to the Strickland Curatorship in the University of Cambridge, and had produced his well-known Catalogue of the Strickland Collection. Salvin was an excellent, indeed we may truly say almost unrivalled, "all round" ornithologist; but his strongest subject was, perhaps, the Avifauna of the Neotropical region, and his special groups the families Trochilidæ and Procellariidæ, which were assigned to him as the acknowledged authority in the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum' (vols. xvi. and xxv.). Almost his last piece of work was the completion of the late Lord Lilford's 'Coloured Figures of British Birds.' Salvin was a Fellow of the Royal, the Linnean, the Zoological, and the Entomological Societies, and served on their Councils, while his services for many years to the B. O. U., as Editor and afterwards as Treasurer, are known to all of us. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of his College, Trinity Hall, in 1897. With a character of remarkable straightforwardness and common sense he combined an excellent judgment; while he was personally much beloved, so that his loss was deeply and sincerely felt, as well on account of his qualities as by reason of difficulties experienced in arranging for the continuation of the many duties which he performed up to the moment of his departure from us.



DR. P. L. SCLATER.

## DR. P. L. SCLATER.\*

Philip Lutley Selater was born, in November 1829, at Tangier Park, in Hampshire, then the residence of his father, Mr. William Lutley Selater, J.P.; but his boyhood was passed at Hoddington House, another estate in the same county, also belonging to his father, to which the family moved in the month of September 1833.

In beautiful Hampshire, not far from the old home of Gilbert White of Selborne, Selater acquired, at an early age, a love for outdoor life and exercise and a special taste for the study of birds. At the age of ten he was sent to a well-known school at Twyford, near Winchester. In 1842, having reached the top of the school, he was transferred to Winchester College, and in 1845 was elected Scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Being at that time under sixteen years of age, he was not called into residence at the University until Easter, 1846. At Oxford his attention was given principally to mathematics, though his spare time was occupied by the study of birds, and of the excellent series of natural-history books then in the Radcliffe Library.

Hugh E. Strickland, the well-known ornithologist, who was at that time resident in Oxford as Reader in Geology, became interested in young Selater, and took him under his patronage. At Strickland's house in Oxford he met John Gould, shortly after his return from his great journey to Australia. From Strickland he received his first instruction in scientific ornithology. He began his collection of bird-skins at Oxford, making British skins for himself, and

\* [This article is an abridgment (with slight corrections and additions) of the late Dr. G. Brown Goode's 'Biographical Sketch,' which forms part of the Introduction to his 'List of the Published Writings of Philip Lutley Selater' contained in the 'Bulletin of the United States National Museum,' No. 49. Washington, 1896.]

buying foreign specimens at a shilling apiece whenever he could get to London for a run among the bird-shops.

In December 1849, he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, obtaining a first class in the mathematical school and a "pass" in classics. At that time these were the only two recognised subjects for study in the University, no sort of encouragement being given to Natural Science. After taking his degree Sclater remained at his college in Oxford for two years, devoting his time principally to Natural History, and proceeded to the M.A. degree. He also gave much attention to modern languages, studying them with masters at home and always visiting the Continent in vacation-time, and thus soon made himself familiar with French, German, and Italian.

At this period of his life he was often in Paris, studying at the National Museum in the Jardin des Plantes. Here he made the acquaintance of the great ornithologist, Prince Charles Bonaparte, at whose house, in the Rue de Lille, until the death of the Prince in 1858, he was a frequent visitor. In 1851 he entered himself for the Bar, becoming a student at Lincoln's Inn and living in chambers at 49 Pall Mall, but occasionally visiting Oxford, and passing his leisure time at Hoddington, always enthusiastically engaged in natural history. The winter of 1852-53 was devoted to travel in Italy and Sicily.

In December 1855, Sclater was admitted Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and, having in the previous June completed his legal education and been called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, he went the Western Circuit and continued to do so for several years.

In 1856 he made his first journey across the Atlantic, in company with the Rev. George Hext, a fellow-collegian. Leaving England in July, they went by New York up the Hudson to Saratoga, and there attended the Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. After that they went to Niagara, and thence through the Great Lakes to Superior City, at the extreme end of Lake

Superior. Here they engaged two Canadian "voyageurs," and travelled on foot through the backwoods to the upper waters of the St. Croix River. This they descended in a birch-bark canoe to the Mississippi. Selater subsequently published an account of this journey in the third volume of 'Illustrated Travels.' Returning by steamboat and railway to Philadelphia, he spent a month studying the splendid collection of birds belonging to the Academy of Natural Sciences in that city, where he formed the acquaintance of John Cassin, Joseph Leidy, John Le Conte, and other then well-known members of that Society. He returned to England shortly before Christmas 1856. For some years after this he lived in London, practising occasionally at the bar, but always at work on natural history. He was a constant attendant at the meetings of the Zoological Society of London, of which he was elected a Fellow in 1850, and in 1857 became a Member of the Council. In 1858, as is stated in the 'Short History of the B. O. U.,' he took a prominent share in founding 'The Ibis,' and became its first Editor.

In January 1859, Selater made a short excursion to Tunis and Eastern Algeria, in company with his great friend, E. C. Taylor. They visited the breeding-places of the Vultures and Kites in the interior, and gathered many bird-skins, returning to London at the end of March.

At this time Mr. D. W. Mitchell, Secretary of the Zoological Society, was about to vacate his post, in order to take charge of the newly instituted Jardin d'Acclimatation in Paris. For his successor Selater was selected by Owen and Yarrell, then influential members of the Council, and was unanimously elected at the Anniversary Meeting on April 30th, 1859.

He found it necessary to devote himself entirely for several years to the reorganization of the affairs of the Society. The 'Proceedings' and 'Transactions' were at that time several years in arrear—they were brought up to date; the 'Garden Guide,' which was out of print, was re-written; the large staff at the Gardens was re-arranged

and divided into departments under the Superintendent, and various other reforms were introduced.

In 1874, when his brother (then the Right Hon. George Selater-Booth, M.P., and afterwards Lord Basing) accepted office in Mr. Disraeli's administration as President of the Local Government Board, Mr. Selater became his private secretary, a position which he occupied for two years. But when subsequently offered a permanent place in the Civil Service he declined it, because he could not make up his mind to give up his dearly loved work in natural history. His most engrossing duties have been in connexion with the Zoological Society of London, to which, as principal executive Officer, he has, of course, devoted most of his time. It is conceded by all that its affairs prospered well under his direction. The number of Fellows of the Society, about 1700 in 1859, increased to over 3000. The income of the Society, which in 1858 was a little over £14,000, rose to £30,000. Besides this, nearly all of the principal buildings in the Society's Gardens were rebuilt and fitted up with every sort of modern conveniences for animals. The old Office-building (No. 11 Hanover Square) was sold, and was replaced by a much larger and more convenient house (No. 3 Hanover Square) in the same vicinity. A debt of £12,000 was paid off, and the house became the freehold property of the Society without any sort of incumbrance. The first floor of the Society's house is devoted to the accommodation of a large and very valuable zoological library, under the care of a Librarian and his assistant, and is the constant resort of the working zoologists of the metropolis. This library had been almost entirely accumulated since 1859.

The publications of the Society, consisting of 'Proceedings,' 'Transactions,' 'Lists of Animals' (of which eight editions have been published), the 'Garden Guide,' and the 'Zoological Record,' are all issued from this office, with almost unfailling regularity. The Scientific Meetings of the Society are held here during the eight months of the Scientific Session, and an abstract of their proceedings is

always printed and issued a week after each meeting has taken place\*.

Slater, as already mentioned, was selected by the British Ornithologists' Union as the first editor of its journal, 'The Ibis,' in 1859. He finished the first series in 1864. Professor Newton took his place as editor of the second series, and Osbert Salvin as editor of the third. In 1877 Slater was associated with Salvin as editor of the fourth series, and in 1883 commenced the editorship of the fifth series with Howard Saunders as co-editor. When the fifth series was completed, in 1888, he became sole editor of the sixth, which he finished in 1894. In 1895, having again obtained the assistance of Howard Saunders, he commenced work on the seventh series, and finished it in 1900. Taking A. H. Evans as co-editor he completed the eighth series in 1906, and is now engaged, along with the same able partner, in editing the ninth series of that journal.

When the British Ornithologists' Club was established in 1892, he joined heartily in the movement inaugurated by

\* When Slater tendered the resignation of his Office in Oct. 1902, the following Resolution was passed by the Council and entered upon their Minutes:—

“The President, Vice-Presidents, and Council of the Zoological Society desire to record their sincere regret at the retirement of their Secretary, Dr. Philip Lutley Slater, after a service of over forty-three years.

“They wish to tender him their hearty thanks for his most valuable services to the Society during this long period, not only in the management of the Zoological Gardens, but also in the conduct of the publications of the Society, and in the general direction of its affairs.

“These affairs have prospered to a remarkable degree during his long term of Office. The income of the Society has doubled; the Membership has increased from 1,500 to 3,200; and the Society's Library has been entirely created.

“Dr. Slater's own work as a Zoologist is held in universal repute, and it is no exaggeration to say that the very high position occupied at the present day by the Zoological Society of London in the world of science is largely due to the exertions and the personal character of its retiring Secretary.”

BEDFORD,

*President.*

Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, and has usually had the honour of occupying the chair at its meetings and of delivering an inaugural address at the commencement of each session.

With the British Association for the Advancement of Science Selater has had a long connexion, having become a member in 1847, at the second Oxford meeting, and having attended its meetings with few exceptions for many years. For several years he was Secretary of Section D, and at the Bristol meeting in 1875 he was President of that Section and delivered an address "On the present state of our Knowledge of Geographical Zoology." In 1876 he was elected one of the two General Secretaries of the Association, together with Sir Douglas Galton, and served in that capacity for five years, thereby becoming an *ex officio* member of the Council, at the meetings of which he is still a constant attendant.

In 1886 Selater began the transfer of his private collection of American bird-skins to the British Museum. This collection contained 8824 specimens, representing 3158 species, belonging to the Orders Passeres, Picariæ, and Psittaci. It may be remarked that when he began his collection at Oxford in 1847 he intended to collect birds of every kind and from all parts of the world, but after a few years he resolved to confine his attention particularly to the Ornithology of South and Central America, and to collect specimens only in the Orders above mentioned, which were at that time generally less known than the others and of which the specimens are of a more manageable size for the private collector.

At the time of the beginning of this transfer, which was only completed in 1890, Selater agreed to prepare some of the volumes of the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds,' relating to the groups to which he had paid special attention. In accordance with this arrangement, by the expenditure of fully two years of his leisure time on each volume, he prepared the eleventh volume in 1886, the fourteenth in 1888, the fifteenth in 1890, and half of the nineteenth in 1891.

When the 'Challenger' Expedition started to go round



the world in 1873, at the request of his friend, the late Sir Wyville Thomson, he agreed to work out all the birds. Soon after the return of the expedition in 1877 the specimens of the birds collected were placed in his hands, and with the assistance of his ornithological friends were speedily reported upon in a series of papers contributed to the Zoological Society's 'Proceedings.' The whole of these papers were reprinted with additions and illustrations, and now form part of the second volume of the "Zoology" of the 'Challenger' Expedition.

Geography, being very closely connected with zoology, has always commanded Selater's hearty interest. He became a life-member of the Royal Geographical Society in 1880, and has attended its meetings regularly ever since. He has also served two years on the Council, and is a member of the Geographical Club. He has assisted in promoting many researches in foreign parts, chiefly, however, with a view to obtaining collections in natural history from strange places. Among these may be especially mentioned Sir H. H. Johnston's expedition to Kilima-njaro in 1884 and Professor Balfour's visit to Socotra in 1880. He also took a leading part in sending out naturalists to Kerguelen Land and Rodriguez, along with the Transit-of-Venus Expeditions of 1874-75, and in many other similar efforts to explore little-known parts of the earth's surface.

In 1884 he took advantage of the opportunity of the visit of the British Association to Montreal to cross the Atlantic a second time, and after the meeting to visit the United States. He was not in good health at that period, and did little, if anything, in the way of zoology. But he had the pleasure of seeing several of his former friends, especially Lawrence and Baird, and of making the personal acquaintance of Mr. Ridgway, Mr. Allen, Mr. Brewster, Dr. Merriam, and many other naturalists.

One of his closest friends was the late Professor Huxley, long a member of the Council of the Zoological Society, where he was one of Selater's most constant supporters. Professor Huxley, it may be said, was the chief advocate of

the project of employing an anatomist at the Society's Gardens, and invented the title "Prosector" for the new office. A. H. Garrod, who became Prosector in 1871, and W. A. Forbes, who succeeded him in 1879—both very talented and promising young naturalists,—were dear friends of Selater, and the unfortunate death of Forbes during an excursion to the Niger in 1883 was a most severe blow to him. Notable among his other friends was Charles Darwin, who frequently visited him in his office, bringing long lists of memoranda for conference.

Mr. Selater married in 1862 Jane Anne Eliza Hunter Blair, daughter of the late Sir David Hunter Blair, Baronet, of Blairquhan, in Ayrshire. He has had six children, of whom four are still living. One of them (William Lutley Selater) is a Member of our Union and well known to us.

Selater received the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Bonn in 1860, and was made a Doctor of Science by the University of Oxford in 1901. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1861, and has twice served on the Council. Besides the Societies already mentioned, he is also a Life-Fellow of the Linnean, Geographical, and Geological Societies, and a Corresponding or Honorary Member of upwards of forty other Scientific Societies at home and abroad. Besides the works already alluded to, he has published the 'Book of Antelopes,' in four quarto volumes (in conjunction with Mr. Oldfield Thomas), 'Exotic Ornithology' (in conjunction with the late Osbert Salvin), 'Argentine Ornithology,' and many other works. A complete list of these and of the papers which he has written in the 'Proceedings' and 'Journals' of various Learned Societies and in other periodicals will be found in No. 49 of the 'Bulletin of the United States National Museum,' from which the present memoir is mainly taken. In 1896 his publications were 1239 in number, but a few more have since been added to the list.

Since he resigned the Secretaryship of the Zoological Society in 1903 (after forty-three years' tenure of that important post), Selater has resided entirely at his house in

Hampshire (Odiham Priory), but is within easy reach of London, and is still a constant visitor to the Zoological Society's Library in Hanover Square and the great collection of birds at South Kensington. In North Hants he is widely known as an active J.P. and a frequent rider with the Hampshire Hunt, of which he is one of the oldest members.



MR. A. F. SEALY.

## MR. A. F. SEALY.

Alfred Forbes Sealy, the son of Benjamin Dowden Sealy, Major-General H.E.I.C. Service, was born at Clevedale, near Bristol, on October 25th, 1831. He was educated for five years under the Rev. G. Despard, of Redland, Clifton, and subsequently at Clapham under the Rev. C. Pritchard. On April 10th, 1850, he was admitted as a Pensioner at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he proceeded to the degree of B.A. in 1854 and that of M.A. in 1857. Having secured a place, as a Junior Optime, in the Mathematical Tripos, he obtained a second class in the Natural Science Tripos, and followed this up by devoting much of his time to Ornithology and Entomology, forming considerable collections in both branches of Science.

For some time he continued to reside at 70 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, and then left for the East, to become Principal of the Rajah's High School at Ernaculum in South India. Meanwhile his acquaintance with the Ornithologists of the University and elsewhere, and especially with Professor (then Mr. Alfred) Newton, led to his becoming one of the Founders of the British Ornithologists' Union, though his departure from England prevented him from taking any active part in its subsequent proceedings. He was, moreover, a Fellow of the Entomological Society. His collection of Birds' Eggs was presented to the University Museum of Zoology at Cambridge. In later life he was appointed Director of Public Instruction for South India and was elected a Fellow of Madras University. He died at Cochin on October 29th, 1894.



MR. W. H. SIMPSON.

## MR. W. H. HUDLESTON.

Previous to April 1867 Hudleston was known as Wilfrid Hudleston Simpson, and it was whilst bearing this name that most of his ornithological work was done. He was born at York on the 2nd June, 1828, and spent the years from 1838 to 1843 at the Collegiate School in that city, now St. Peter's School. Those were the days before scientific farming had reduced our fences, and there was a fine field for that mischievous imp, the bird's-nester, especially in the direction of Bootham Stray and the north-west side of the city generally. In some years the Lesser Redpoll and the Green Linnet bred abundantly in such fences, and their nests, together with those of Whitethroats, Willow-Wrens, &c., constituted part of the spoils of the Collegiate boys in their half-holiday excursions.

In 1843 young Simpson went to Uppingham School, being then 15 years of age. Here, for three successive seasons, he indulged in his favourite pursuit in a locality which at that time was certainly favourable to ornithological rambles. Kites had only just disappeared from those large woods which were remnants of the old forest of Rockingham, but some of the local eggs were still preserved in Bell's collection. The subject of our memoir shares with many an Uppingham boy of more recent years pleasant memories of Wardley Wood, Bisbrooke Gorse, Stoke End, Burgess's Pond, and other famous localities in the vicinity of the little Rutland town, which have been made classical by Mr. Haines in his 'Notes on the Birds of Rutland.'

The scene now shifts to Cambridge, when the glories of Fenland were already in a transition state. The seasons of 1847, 1848, and 1849 are those with which we have to deal. Simpson spent no small part of his time during the spring months in fen localities, and the area of his operations extended from Whittlesey Mere, on the west, to the fens of

the Little Ouse, on the borders of Norfolk and Suffolk, this, of course, during the interludes of University studies. He was just in time to find some of the Harriers breeding, and notably Montagu's Harrier, which then nested regularly in Feltwell Fen in company with the Short-eared Owl.

From a purely natural-history point of view, there could be no greater calamity than the draining of Whittlesey Mere, and it may also be questioned if there has been any great economic advantage in destroying such an area of flood and fen, teeming with everything that could interest the sportsman and the naturalist, simply for the sake of growing oats at 16s. a quarter, and other grain at corresponding prices.

However, the lake was drained in the summer of 1850, about the same time that the Great Northern Railroad Company, with much difficulty, carried their line through the vast area of peat which, for many miles, surrounded it. Simpson was a witness of all these operations, and furthermore he had to deplore the loss of his boat, which was rendered useless owing to the draining of the lake.

The year 1848 was in many ways a memorable one. It was in that year that Simpson first made the acquaintance of Alfred Newton, who had just come up as an undergraduate to Magdalene College, Cambridge. The similarity of their tastes soon made them firm friends, though Newton did not then accompany Simpson in any of his excursions. His principal comrade at this time was a brother Johnian named James E. Law, who had shared in his birds'-nesting experiences at Uppingham, and who ultimately married his eldest sister. When the May term was over, these two naturalists, reinforced by two other Johnians, conceived the idea of going by sea from London to Newcastle. From this town Simpson and Law made a short tour in Northumberland, the programme including a complete day at the Farne Islands on the 15th of June. Permission was obtained from the authorities on the spot, and the adventurers were rewarded with a fine series of eggs, running into hundreds. Sandwich Terns were particularly plentiful in those days, but the eggs of the



few Roseate Terns visible were only doubtfully identified. The same party had a delightful day on Cheviot a little later, when they found that the Merlin and Dunlin had already hatched off; but a complete clutch of the Golden Plover was secured from the flat and hassoeky summit of the mountain. On the 7th July following, Simpson, who was then visiting his relations in Cumberland, secured a nest of the Dotterel, with its complement of three eggs, on the summit of Robinson Fell near Buttermere.

Simpson took his B.A. degree in January 1850, and forthwith went to reside in London, where he was called to the Bar in 1853. Those years were not prolific in ornithological pursuits, although during a short fishing-trip to the north-west of Ireland, in May 1853, he and his old College ehum James Law had the good fortune to secure nests of the Sea-Eagle and Peregrine Falcon from the cliffs of Horn Head in Donegal. The Sea-Eagle was fairly numerous in those days, and anyone specially bent on nesting might possibly have secured several eggs. There was one remarkable nest on a high pinnacle, or stack, detached from the cliffs of Arran More Islands, where the bird could be seen sitting on eggs which must have been laid on the very point of the stack. Under the old conditions this might be regarded as an inaccessible spot, but nothing would be easier than firing at such a tempting object with a long-range rifle, and many is the bird within the last fifty years that has fallen a victim to this detestable practice. The Sea-Eagle is probably now extinct on the coasts of Ireland.

After a lull of something like five years, part of which had been occupied in foreign travel, Simpson again took up ornithology seriously in the spring of 1855, and this time at the instance of Alfred Newton, with whom he had remained in constant touch ever since their first meeting at Cambridge in 1848. The exploits of John Wolley in Lapland were then fresh in the minds of the ornithological world, and the prospect of sharing in such adventures was too tempting to be neglected. Newton, from his energy and devotion to ornithology, was already establishing a position of influence

amongst his brethren, and consequently no one was more capable of organising a successful expedition than himself. The two comrades started from Hull late in May, and, owing to most unseasonable weather, missed the steamer connexion along the Norwegian coast, and so were taken on to Christiania, whence they proceeded overland in a great hurry to Trondhjem, only just in time to catch the coasting-steamer that was to take them on to Hammerfest. Mr. Simpson never regrets the incident, which enabled him to see so much of the interior of Norway, to enjoy the excitement of cariole-driving, and to share in the custom, now probably extinct, of sending on "forbud." The two companions drove the last 100 miles from Hjerken to Trondhjem at a single stretch. The most provoking part of it was that all this hurry went for nothing, as when they reached Hammerfest it was discovered that they had to wait ten days at that truly penal settlement.

When the rolling 'Gyller' at length arrived in port, two Englishmen, Scott and Torr, were on board, and a merry party of four rounded the Nordkyn together, and ultimately reached Vadsö in the Varanger Fjord, where the hero of Lapland ornithology, John Wolley, shortly made his appearance, fresh from a fortnight's excursion up the Pasvig, in Russian Finland, and this, too, during the Crimean War. The party of three ornithologists, being now complete, lost no time in making their way up the Varanger Fjord, and thence to the valley of the Tana, and so round by the Tana Fjord to Vadsö again. There is no need for any ornithological details, as these may be gathered from the writings of Wolley and Newton, and also from the pages of 'Hewitson.' The same remark applies to the still more prolific region of Central Lapland, at Muoniovara, for instance, which Wolley had made his home. The 'Ootheca Wolleyana' should especially be consulted, for there each egg has its history.

The return journey commenced towards the middle of July, when the three friends committed themselves once more to the rolling 'Gyller,' and were landed at a place on the Lyngen Fjord, whence they made their way across the water-

shed into Swedish Lapland, and so in boats down the Muonio River to Muoniovara itself.

Central Lapland is by no means a bad place wherein to spend the latter part of summer, when you have good quarters in a well-to-do Swedish farmer's house, and enjoy the run of all those numerous buildings which constitute the "gaard," or square, within whose precincts everything is enclosed. The rooms are appropriate, the beds &c. most scrupulously clean, and, if the commons are rather short, this acts as an incentive to the sportsman to increase his efforts to supply the larder. There are grayling in the Muonio, anxious to take fly or spoon; ducks, and especially Wigeon, in the streams and lakelets; Willow-Grouse on the margins of the woods; and Capercaillies in the spruce-dells. In the pursuit of ducks the native "Lapp dog" was found very useful, as he could dive in most approved fashion after a winged bird: it was really wonderful to watch the dog and the duck in the evolutions of the subaqueous chase. Nor was the climate at all disagreeable, though towards the beginning of September there was somewhat of a "bite" in the air.

The homeward journey began on the 8th of September, and the party reached Hull early in October, by way of Haparanda, Stockholm, and Gothenburg.

In the spring of 1856 John Wolley induced Simpson to join him in an expedition to the Isle of Öland, in the Baltic, in quest of the Little Gull, supposed to breed there, but this turned out to be the Black-headed Gull, and so far the expedition was a failure. Nevertheless, a most interesting campaign was carried on in the watery isle and adjacent coast of Sweden—some of the results being recorded in 'The Ibis' (see "Narrative of the Discovery of some Nests of the Black Woodpecker in Sweden," *Ibis*, vol. i. p. 264) and in the '*Ootheca Wolleyana*.'

Probably the most enjoyable excursion in which Simpson shared was that undertaken by Tristram and Salvin in the year 1857. The introduction was effected through the good offices of Alfred Newton; and Salvin and Simpson started together from London early in February to join

Tristram, already in North Africa. The three met at Tunis, and some time was spent in that highly interesting country, where archæology and ornithology were alternately in the ascendant. As matters turned out, the sojourn in Tunisia was longer than expected, since Tristram, intending merely to take a coasting-trip, was driven out to sea by stress of weather, and ultimately reached Malta, where he was detained some time for want of shipping.

Thus it was not until the latter end of March that the "caravan" started for Algeria, *via* the famous valley of Roman ruins, to Kef, and thence over the somewhat lawless borderland to Souk-harras in the province of Constantine. From the day of their leaving Souk-harras, very early in April, to the day of their arrival at Constantine, towards the end of June, the party dwelt constantly in tents, and travelled on horseback from place to place. From an ornithological point of view the country was almost a virgin one, and especially the upper valley of the Medjerdah, where operations first commenced. The country was alive with birds of prey, from the stately Griffon to the querulous Black Kite, and other birds were equally interesting and demonstrative. The wretched "Colon" had not yet potted everything, and there were even lions, long since extinct, for the followers of Jules Gerard to pursue.

Added to these attractions, there was a delightful climate and, in many places, most impressive rock-scenery—fitting homes for the larger Raptorials. So far from being a dried-up country, these green highlands of Old Numidia afforded excellent turf for a good gallop, and one could easily understand why the forces of Massinissa and Jugurtha were so strong in cavalry. True, when this style of country is left, to the north you reach the great Sebka's, vast evaporating basins, which in spring still afford water for innumerable wild-fowl and waders. This, too, is the land of the Houbara Bustard and Sand-Grouse, but those who intend to gallop must beware of the holes made by the small rodents in the dry plains that surround the Sebka's. Ain Zana was the last place visited by the party, and the wealth of this extraordinary spot, especially in ducks, waders, &c., can only be

partly realised when reading the excellent descriptions of Tristram and Salvin in the earlier numbers of 'The Ibis.' Such a wonderful place was the result of the overflow of springs (Ain), but doubtless this ornithological paradise, like Whittlesey Mere, has been "improved" off the face of the earth in the interval between 1857 and 1908.

The early part of 1858 presents no particular features of interest. Simpson passed a few weeks in Argyllshire, looking out for shootings, and while thus engaged secured nests of the Buzzard and Hen-Harrier. It was in the same spring that Wolley and Newton spent so much valuable time in a hopeless search for the Gargowl. But their return to England was not without significance, as may be gathered from correspondence received about that time, which, in conjunction with a visit paid by Newton to Castle Eden, contains the germ of the idea of a union of ornithologists\*. This was further advanced at Leeds, where the

\* Subjoined are extracts from letters written to Mr. Simpson about this period:—

From JOHN WOLLEY, Beeston, Nottingham, August 5th.—After referring to their profitless season in Iceland, owing to their devotion to the Gargowl, the writer goes on to say: "I hope you will meet Newton and me and other good fellows (ahem!) at the British Association on or about 22nd September at Leeds."

From ALFRED NEWTON, Elveden, August 14th:—"Wolley's great idea of having the conference of the vagabond oologists to meet their wandering brethren in science of the British Ass at Leeds was chiefly conceived from his having met the Border baronet, Sir William Jardine, who told him he should be there. Now, certainly Edward will not be at home until about October 1st, and he is not the fellow I take him for, unless he keeps Salvin, who by the last account was carried away by him into captivity at St. Croix, to bear him company on his passage, and I hardly know how I should answer it to either of these two knights errant, if I were not to urge their claims to being present at the joyful réunion that is to take place some time or other."

From H. B. TRISTRAM, Castle Eden, August 10th.—Mentions that the Great Bustard (Newton) had just left him, although the Great Auk (Wolley) had fled south without calling. He continues: "I am ready for the conference at Cambridge or else to make myself a British Ass at Leeds in such good company. You know, I suppose, that Salvin and Edward Newton will be back in a few weeks."

British Association met in September. During this meeting Wolley and Simpson occupied the same quarters, and they had frequent opportunities of conferring with well-known ornithologists on the subject.

Ultimately the British Ornithologists' Union was formally founded at Cambridge in November 1858, and Simpson well remembers that he and F. D. Godman, with others of the brotherhood, stayed for some little time at the Bull Hotel, in order to take part in the proceedings.

Simpson's latest expeditions in the pursuit of ornithology took place during the years 1859 and 1860, chiefly in Greece, but also to a less extent in that part of Turkey known as the Dobrudscha, which has since become a portion of the State of Rumania. In Greece he had the advantage of the company of Dr. Krüper during part of the time, especially in the neighbourhood of Mesolonghi, where some interesting captures were made. He was able to study the country both in its summer and its winter aspect, and the results of his experiences are recorded in some of the earlier volumes of 'The Ibis.' In the Dobrudscha he was twice the guest of the late John Trevor Barkly and his brothers, then engaged in making the railway from Kustendji to the Danube. The Dobrudscha at that time was a comparatively virgin country, and might have yielded great results to less hurried visitors. Some particulars as to the work done are to be found in the second and third volumes of 'The Ibis.' During the winter of 1859-60 in Greece Simpson maintained a correspondence with the brethren at home, though delivery of letters was uncertain and the country had a bad character. For some considerable period there were no letters, and Tristram in a fit of despondence wrote as follows:—

“ Eheu ! a Thraco latrone  
Actum est de Simpsono.”

This epitaph was communicated to the supposed defunct by Alfred Newton.

Shortly after his return from Turkey, viz. in June 1860, Simpson attended the memorable meeting of the British Association at Oxford, where there was a considerable

gathering of original members of the B. O. U. The general results of that meeting are a matter of history, but the more immediate result as regards the ornithologists present was to confirm their leaning towards the doctrine of Evolution, then for the first time brought to the notice of the public.

A change was now impending in Simpson's career. For many years past he had done little else than amuse himself, and in such a mode of life sport and ornithology always loomed largely. But, as was pointed out on one occasion by his friend and former schoolfellow, Humphrey Cholmeley, such a course might do well enough for early manhood, but "how about the later years of life?" It could not be contended that Simpson's devotion to ornithology was of a scientific character, though it was impossible to associate with such men as Newton, Salvin, and Krüper without picking up some of the elements of the science. Hence the necessity for a change. Yet the old habit was so strong within him that, on a fishing-trip in Sutherland during the spring of 1861, he availed himself of an introduction from Alfred Newton to the "old man of the Moine," and thus set to work in the old style once more. Several interesting finds were the result, such as the Golden Eagle from Ben Laoghal, the Grey-lag Goose from Loch Laoghal, and two or three complete nests of the Greenshank—substantially the last eggs Simpson took.

Henceforth he determined to devote his energies to something more practical, and, as a preliminary course, to undertake his own re-education, so as to be less dependent on classical knowledge only. With this object in view, in the winter of 1862-63, he studied chemistry under Playfair at Edinburgh, where he obtained the University medal in that branch of science. Subsequently, for three successive winters, he continued those studies at the Royal College of Chemistry in London, and ultimately set up his own laboratory in Chelsea, where he was able to conduct mineral analysis on his own account.

All this work was so much training for the main object he had in view, viz. to become a practical geologist. In this

connexion, during a short trip to Switzerland in the autumn of 1866, he met Marshall Hall, through whom he obtained introductions to several well-known geologists. From such men as Morris, Etheridge, and Blake, to mention no others, he received instruction in palæontology, and thus early in the seventies he was sufficiently advanced to be able to contribute to the literature of his favourite study. He became a Fellow of the Geological Society in May 1867, just a fortnight before he changed his name to Huddlestone.

From the year 1872 onwards he continued to write papers on various geological subjects, while he also participated in the management of the several societies with which he was connected. It is probable that he was the only person who has been Secretary and President, both of the Geologists' Association and of the Geological Society. In 1897 he was awarded the Wollaston Medal; in 1898 he was President of Section C at the Bristol meeting of the British Association; and so recently as last summer (1908) he was deputed by the Council to represent the Geological Society of London at the Darwin-Wallace Jubilee meeting of the Linnean Society. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1884.

While these pages are passing through the press, news of the death of Mr. Huddlestone has reached us. He died, to the regret of a large circle of friends, at Wareham, on January 29th, 1909, in his 81st year.

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MR. E. C. TAYLOR.

## MR. E. C. TAYLOR.

Edward Cavendish Taylor, one of the original members of the British Ornithologists' Union, was born on the 20th of January, 1831, the third and youngest son of Frederic Farmer Taylor, of Chyknell in the county of Salop, by his marriage with Juliana, daughter of the second Lord Waterpark. He was educated at Rugby and Cambridge, and, after the usual course of theological study, took Holy Orders in the Church of England, and served as curate in several places, amongst which was Long Compton in Warwickshire. But Taylor was not thoroughly devoted to his profession, and when, in 1870, the Act was passed enabling clergymen of the Church of England to give up their Orders, he took early advantage of it and retired into lay life and the study of birds, in which he had taken a great interest from his early youth. Taylor was a very accurate and painstaking observer, besides making excellent skins, and was a constant traveller. In the winter of 1853 he visited Egypt, and ascended the Nile up to the first Cataract, making a good collection of birds *en route*. In 1858, when this Union was founded he became one of its original members, and, though he was not present at the meeting at Cambridge in November, 1858, when 'The Ibis' was founded, he contributed an excellent article to the first number of that Journal, which was published in January 1859.

Early in 1859 Taylor left England on an expedition to Tunis and Algeria, in company with Selater and two other friends. The main object of the party was to visit the breeding-sites of the Vultures and Eagles in those countries, which had been so successfully explored by Salvin and Tristram in 1857, as is recorded in the first volume of this Journal. No opportunity was lost by Taylor of adding to his cabinet of birds during this expedition. His next long journey was of a more adventurous character. Leaving

England in December, 1872, he proceeded to the West Indies, and besides made excursions from Trinidad to the mainland of South America, visiting, amongst other places, the towns of Ciudad Bolivar and Caracas. Birds were studied and collected at all the places visited, and the general results of the expedition were given to the world in two articles published in 'The Ibis' in 1864. Examples of *Pitangus taylori*, a species of Tyrant-bird named by Selater after his friend and companion, were first obtained on this occasion in Porto Rico, and serve to commemorate the name of its discoverer.

After 1860 Taylor's headquarters were always in London, where he had a set of rooms in Jermyn Street and was a member of several clubs. The winter-climate of London, however, did not suit his health, and the colder months of the year were usually passed in Italy, where he was quite at home both at Florence and Rome, and enjoyed the society of numerous friends. He also revisited Egypt more than once, and never failed to give some account of his observations on birds made during these excursions to the Editors of 'The Ibis,' at the same time never omitting to add to his cabinet of birds. When in London in the summer he was a constant visitor to the Zoological Society's Library and Gardens, and to the Bird-room of the British Museum, always intent upon questions relating to the study of Birds. During the last part of his life Taylor's health unfortunately failed him, and he was not so much seen at his favourite places of resort. The end came somewhat suddenly, when he died in London on April 19th, 1905, at the age of 73 years. By his will Taylor left his collection of birds and eggs to the British Museum, where it proved to be a valuable accession, as several types were comprised in the series and the skins were all in excellent condition and labelled with well-established localities.

Taylor's collection contained 1226 specimens of birds and 860 of eggs, principally from the Palearctic and Neotropical Regions. Amongst them are the types of *Pitangus taylori* and *Tyrannus rostratus*, both shot and skinned by himself.

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DR. H. B. TRISTRAM.

## CANON TRISTRAM.

The Rev. Henry Baker Tristram, Canon of Durham, one of the founders and original members of the British Ornithologists' Union, was well known as an author, a traveller, a naturalist, and an antiquarian. It is, of course, to his work in Natural History that we shall mainly allude on the present occasion.

Canon Tristram was born on May 11th, 1822, at Eglington, near Alnwick, the large country parish of which his father, the Rev. H. B. Tristram, was at that time Vicar. He was educated at Durham School, and afterwards at Lincoln College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1844, taking a second class in Classics.

In 1845 Tristram was ordained Deacon by the Bishop of Exeter, and Priest in the following year, having been appointed Curate of Morchard Bishop. But, shewing somewhat alarming signs of a weak chest, he was ordered abroad, and passed two years (1847-1849) as naval and military chaplain in Bermuda. In the latter year he was nominated Rector of Castle Eden, in Durham, and in 1860 Master of Greatham Hospital and Vicar of Greatham, where he remained until 1873, when he was appointed Canon of Durham, and resided in that city till his decease on the 8th of March, 1906. We will now turn to his ornithological and other scientific work and publications.

From his early youth devoted to Natural History, Tristram, like many of us, commenced his writings on this engrossing subject in the 'Zoologist,' the first being "On the Occurrence of the Little Auk in Durham," published in 1853 (Zool. p. 3753). Other short notes in the same periodical followed in 1854, 1856, 1859, and 1861. His first visit to Algeria was made in the winter of 1855-6, and in the following winter, having acquired the favour of Marshal Randon, the

French Governor-General, he was enabled to push his excursions across the Atlas far into the interior of the Sahara, where, as he tells us, he found an "atmosphere bright, dry, and invigorating," which exactly suited his case. It was, in fact, to the two winters passed in Algeria that he always attributed his recovery from the malady which had threatened him.

The results of these expeditions were the excellent series of papers on the ornithology of Northern Africa published in this Journal in 1859, 1860, and 1861, and the very attractive volume on his journeyings in the "Great Sahara," issued in 1860, which, in our opinion, may fairly claim a place of the very highest rank among the narratives of travels of Naturalists.

Another part of the world to which Tristram devoted special attention was Palestine. It was in the early part of 1858 that he first landed there, during a yachting visit to the Mediterranean. His ornithological notes written on this occasion were published in the first volume of 'The Ibis,' to which he was a constant contributor. In the autumn of 1863 he made a further visit to the Holy Land, where he remained until the following summer. This visit was the chief origin of his instructive and charming volume on 'The Land of Israel,' published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in 1865. In 1872 Tristram was again in Palestine, and pushed his travels beyond the Jordan. On this occasion he discovered the ruins of the great Persian Palace at Mashita, built by Chosroes about A.D. 614, which had been previously almost forgotten. Upon this journey he founded his interesting volume on 'The Land of Moab,' which was published in 1873.

Tristram's next trip to Palestine was in 1881, when he travelled from Jaffa to Hebron, and thence turned northwards to Damascus. From Damascus he made a long excursion across the Euphrates, and visited "Ur of the Chaldees." In 1894 he was again in Palestine, and again in 1897. It was on this last visit that, while riding with a party of friends near Jerusalem, he had his leg broken by

the kick of a vicious horse. This would have finished off most men at the age of seventy-five. But such was not the case with our friend Tristram. After a few weeks in Jerusalem he was pronounced to be sound again, and returned to England as full of energy and spirits as ever.

In all these journeyings, however, it must not be supposed that Tristram ever lost sight of his "dear birds." They were continually in his mind, and he was always collecting specimens and writing notes about them. In the pages of this Journal and elsewhere will be found upwards of seventy papers of more or less importance relating to his favourite subject. So far as regards Palestine, these notes will be found summarized and placed in systematic order in his great work on the 'Fauna and Flora of Palestine,' published by the Palestine Exploration Fund in 1884. This lasting monument of Canon Tristram's industry and learning is still the only published work dealing with the Natural History of the Bible-lands as a whole, and is likely long to remain so. A smaller and more popular work of Tristram's on the Natural History of Palestine, together with an account of its Geography, Geology, and Meteorology, was published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge in 1867, and has gone through several editions.

But Tristram by no means confined his ornithological labours to one or two spots on the globe. He visited Norway, and was also indefatigable in amassing specimens from all quarters, while he was specially interested in obtaining them from remote oceanic islands and similar strange places. In 1889 he had got together over 17,000 specimens, and prepared and printed a catalogue of them. Many of them were of great rarity (c. g., *Nestor productus*, *Camptolæmus labradorius*, *Monarcha dimidiata*) and almost unknown elsewhere. Some years afterwards, fearing that on his death his famous collection might be dispersed, he came to an arrangement with the authorities of the Free Public Museums of Liverpool to take over the whole of his series of birds. In the Report of the Committee of this Institution for 1896 will be found a short account of this

important acquisition, which is described as containing "20,000 specimens referable to 6000 species, of which 150 are types."

About the same time the Canon's large and valuable collection of birds' eggs was disposed of to Mr. Philip Crowley, of Waddon House, Croydon. At Crowley's death, in 1901, it was directed that the whole of his collection of eggs should be at the disposal of the British Museum. All the valuable and important specimens of birds' eggs in the Tristram Collection will now, therefore, be found in the cabinets at South Kensington.

Tristram's name and fame are well commemorated by several birds that bear his surname as their specific title. Among these the most appropriate to him is Tristram's Grackle (*Amydrus tristrami*), discovered by the traveller himself in the rocky gorges of the Dead Sea in January 1864\*. It belongs to an otherwise exclusively African group of Starlings, of which it is the sole representative in Asia, and was dedicated by Sclater to its discoverer.

Tristram was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1868, and was also a Fellow, Member, or Correspondent of a number of other scientific and learned Societies at home and abroad.

On the 5th of February, 1900, Canon and Mrs. Tristram celebrated their Golden Wedding. After this epoch Tristram dwelt principally at home in Durham, making occasional visits to London, where he attended the Anniversary Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union in May 1903, and the Dinner in the evening. Canon Tristram died "full of age and honour" in his residence at Durham, on March 8th, 1906, to the great sorrow of a wide circle of relatives, friends, and acquaintances, who appreciated the high qualities and many-sided knowledge of this remarkable man.—*P. L. Sclater*.

\* See 'The Land of Israel,' p. 209.





MR. JOHN WOLLEY.

## MR. JOHN WOLLEY.

The memory of the Naturalist whose death made the first gap in the small society of the promoters of 'The Ibis,' while it inflicted on science in general a serious loss, deserves more than a passing notice in our pages, and the writer of this Memoir, who was closely intimate with John Wolley during his latter years, deems it a duty, at once melancholy and pleasurable in no ordinary degree, to place on record the few bare facts of his brief career.

Sprung from a Derbyshire family of fair repute and antiquity, the deceased naturalist was born at Matlock, on May 13th, 1824, being the eldest son of the Rev. John Hurt and Mary his wife, eldest daughter of Adam Wolley, Esq., of Matlock, a gentleman well known as a local historian and the donor of a valuable collection of manuscripts, still called after him, to the British Museum. At the decease of his father-in-law, in 1827, Mr. Hurt assumed the name and arms of Wolley.

At an early age John Wolley was sent to Mr. Fletcher's preparatory school at Southwell, which in 1836 he quitted for Eton, where he remained for the next six years. A love for the study of nature shewed itself even in the days of his childhood, though at that time plants and insects shared his attention fully as much as the higher classes of creation, which at a later period became mainly the objects of his study. Indeed, while at Eton, in his own words, he was "always about the country in all directions in pursuit of Natural History," and he assiduously collected insects and eggs, while "he knew every plant that grew about." With all this, he was one of the foremost in every manly sport; and his recollections of having been captain of a "long-boat" and in "the eight," while also one of the "oppidan" eleven, and that of "the school" at football, were always among those in which he most delighted.

In October 1842 he went to Cambridge, and entered upon his residence at Trinity College. For one who had just quitted the sixth form at Eton and did not intend to take a degree in honours, not much reading was necessary, and with Wolley's tastes it is not surprising to find that most of his time while at the University was passed in the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire fens and woods, which then afforded a rich field for the researches of a naturalist. In the long vacation of 1845 he started on a trip to the south of Spain, and after visiting Cadiz, Seville, and Gibraltar, crossed the Straits to Tangier. Here he unexpectedly found a keen egg-collector domiciled, at that time known to but few naturalists in Europe, and perhaps to none in England. Though at first only the cabinets of Wolley himself and his immediate friends were benefited by the discovery, the knowledge of Mons. Favier's readiness to oblige other oologists soon spread, and to their general advantage. It is true that the eggs thus rendered attainable to British collectors were such as at present are no longer accounted scarce; but the progress of the study is marked by the fact that at that time an experienced ornithologist like the late Mr. Yarrell considered such eggs as the Pratincole's and Stilt's, brought home by Wolley, as the "rarest he had ever had." Mr. Hewitson, too, was thereby shortly afterwards enabled to give, for the first time, a correct figure of the egg of the Egyptian Vulture in the edition of his well-known work then approaching completion.

In January 1846, Wolley graduated as a B.A. and left the University. He then went to live in London, and entered at the Middle Temple with the intention of studying law. But more congenial pursuits chiefly occupied his attention, and though he kept the terms necessary for a call to the Bar, the reading-room of the British Museum was more frequently his haunt than the chambers of the special pleader, and the design of following a barrister's profession was subsequently abandoned. Profiting by the opportunities he enjoyed, he at this time mostly busied himself with studying the works of the older naturalists. The writer has

been unable to ascertain precisely at what period the idea first occurred to Wolley's mind, but it was certainly not later than this year (1846) that he began carefully to examine and collate all the historical evidence relating to that extraordinary extinct bird, the Dodo, and in pursuing the search for authorities he was led to make a minute study of the records of ancient voyages. This he did without any knowledge of the labours towards the same end which were then being prosecuted by the late Mr. H. E. Strickland, for it was not until the close of the next year that he became acquainted with that gentleman's design of immediately bringing out a work on the subject. Wolley had by that time collected a considerable mass of material; but directly he saw an announcement of the contemplated publication of 'The Dodo and its Kindred,' he at once communicated the principal results at which he had arrived to Strickland, whose admirable monograph bears no unwilling testimony to his appreciation of the assistance thus generously proffered and to the value of the knowledge acquired\*.

In the summer of 1846, accompanied by one of his cousins, Wolley made a tour in Germany and Switzerland, throughout which he neglected no opportunity of acquiring ornithological information, while in the course of it he achieved a successful ascent of Mont Blanc—an exploit not then of such frequent occurrence as it has since become.

Towards the end of the next year (1847) he repaired to Edinburgh and joined the medical classes at that University, where he diligently applied himself for the next three years

\* The writer begs leave to acknowledge here the kindness with which Sir William Jardine has placed at his disposal copies of, and extracts from, several of Wolley's letters to Strickland, written at this period. It may be added, for the benefit of any naturalist who, at some time or other, might turn his attention to the matter, that Wolley was strongly of opinion that assiduously as Strickland had worked, the amount of information to be yet derived from a more extended research, such as would be afforded by several of our public and private libraries, was far from being exhausted—if, indeed, their dust did not still bury the knowledge of facts bearing on this remarkable group of extinct organisms far more interesting than any that had been resuscitated.

to the course of study necessary for attaining a physician's degree, and with so much success that, during his last session (1850-1), he was elected Senior President of the Royal Medical Society—the highest mark of respect his fellow-students could bestow on him \*. The vacations, however, he devoted to what now became his main object—the desire of forming an oological collection, all the specimens of which should be thoroughly well authenticated, and by consequence not only really serviceable to, but worthy of, a study pertaining to the Exact Sciences. To gain this end, no labour was too severe, no personal hardship too great for him to undergo.

Accordingly, the summer of 1848 found him visiting the northern extremity of our island, and he extended his excursion to the Orkneys and Shetlands. This was probably more with the intention of obtaining a personal knowledge of the localities, to be made use of on a future occasion, than with much expectation of then adding to his collection, for the eggging season was then already far advanced. The chief capture on this tour was that of a pair of Sea-Eagles, which were transmitted to the residence of a relation at Matlock, where subsequently a mass of rocks, perhaps in bygone years tenanted by the other native species, was wired over, and the plan of the cage thus formed, having been brought to the knowledge of the Secretary of the Zoological Society, suggested the first idea of the fine Eagle Aviary which now adorns the Gardens in the Regent's Park.

Profiting by the knowledge he had gained the preceding year, he started early in 1849 for the North, and during a journey throughout Caithness and Sutherlandshire, most of which was performed on foot, devoted himself to investigating the habits of the larger birds of prey, which, as he perceived, the combined efforts of sheep-farmers, game-preservers, and so-called natural-history collectors were so soon to render nearly extinct in that district. The principal results of his experience on this and subsequent occasions

\* Kindly communicated to the writer by Professor Goodsir.

were communicated to Mr. Hewitson, in the last edition of whose work Wolley's observations were deservedly embodied, with the prefatory remark, no less happy than true, that he had "become as familiar with the King of birds as others are with Crows and Magpies." Leaving the British Islands in the month of June, he visited the Færoes, and passed several weeks studying the ornithology of those islands, for which his activity and fearlessness in rock-climbing afforded him so great an advantage. An account of the birds of this interesting group was read before the Natural History Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at their meeting in Edinburgh the following year, and the paper will be found printed in full in Sir William Jardine's 'Contributions to Ornithology' for 1850. At the next Cambridge Commencement, July 1850, he proceeded to the degree of M.A., and at the close of the winter session 1850-1 he quitted Edinburgh.

After another expedition to the Highlands, in the course of which he became acquainted with some Eagle localities in Argyllshire and Perthshire of remarkable interest, he again took up his abode in London, and continued to reside there until the spring of 1853. During all this time he was thoroughly devoted to the object he had most at heart, and while by no means unmindful of his former literary researches, in which he now comprised much investigation relative to a species probably nearly extinct, the Great Auk, he took especial care to extend his acquaintance among other naturalists, with whom his peculiarly quiet manner and unassuming demeanour speedily rendered him deservedly popular\*.

At length, in the spring of 1853, Wolley was enabled to put in execution a plan the idea of which had for several years haunted him, and to make an excursion of far greater

\* The writer may perhaps be excused for mentioning here that it was in October 1851 that he first became personally acquainted with Mr. Wolley. For some years previously they had carried on a pretty frequent correspondence on natural-history subjects, and this now led to a closer intimacy, resulting in a friendship which continued to the last.

extent than any he had hitherto accomplished. Not only had he from his boyhood rejoiced in the thought of one day visiting the land of Gyrfalcons and Capercaillies, Bears and Wolves, but, of late, the very unsatisfactory nature of our knowledge respecting the nidification of various birds, among which were some of our commonest winter visitants, had been constantly present to his mind. English oologists had more than twenty years before visited Iceland and the coast-region of Norway, making discoveries of remarkable interest; it was therefore but reasonable to suppose that some sort of similar success would attend investigations carried on in still more northern latitudes. The pages of Mr. Yarrell's work recorded the results of Mr. Dam's visit to Lapland, and moreover an acquaintance of Wolley's had only three years before made a tour in that country, and brought back specimens and intelligence sufficient to excite the ardour of a moderately keen naturalist. Then, again, there was the geographical consideration that, from the very configuration of the land, the country lying between the Arctic Ocean and a large inland sea like the Baltic would probably be found to offer to many species of birds peculiar advantages as a breeding-station. All this determined him upon making an expedition to the district lying at the head of the Gulf of Bothnia. On the 23rd of April he left Hull for Gothenburg, on his way to Torneå, which place he intended to make his headquarters. Provided with good introductions, at Stockholm he obtained valuable intelligence from Prof. Retzius and the late Herr Wahlberg, who has since so unfortunately met his death in South Africa, and who had been not long before on a botanical tour in Lapland. Having secured the assistance of a student of the University to act as interpreter, Wolley started off again, undeterred by the prospect of a journey of 900 miles in a rough carriage, and at a season of the year when, the winter-ways being broken up, and the multitude of wide rivers still choked with rotten ice, travelling is deemed by the Swedes all but impossible. The journey was not, however, without its reward. In the course of it he discovered the Eagle-Owl's

nest, his graphic description of which reached England just in time to be of use to Mr. Hewitson. At length he arrived at Haparanda, a small frontier village opposite the Russian town of Torneå. Northwards from this place, Finnish is the language almost exclusively used, and it therefore became necessary here to engage a second interpreter. This added to the difficulties of the expedition; for those only who have experienced it can be aware of the trouble and annoyance entailed by the employment of a third language, especially in making known to an ignorant population wants of which they have hitherto had no idea, and by means of interpreters to whom they are equally strange.

It is not within the scope of this memoir to relate at length the different stages of Wolley's journey. It will suffice to say that, embarking on the river Torneå, he followed its course across the Arctic circle, until its junction at Kengis with the Muonio, continuing along the latter stream as far as Muonioniska—his intention being to reach Jerisjärvi, a large lake recommended to him at Stockholm as an advantageous locality for his operations. He found, however, that the more immediate neighbourhood of Muonioniska offered greater facilities, and here accordingly he passed the short polar summer, working incessantly, often more than twenty-four consecutive hours, in the vast marshes near it, until he had completely exhausted the powers of his two interpreters and his troop of beaters. At the end of July he retraced his steps, intending to return at once to England, but on arriving at Haparanda he found letters which made him resolve to pass the winter in Lapland, and accordingly, dismissing his companions, and entrusting to one of them the spoils of the campaign to be sent to some friends at home, he again ascended the river and took up his quarters at Muoniovåra, the house of a trader, opposite the Russian village of Muonioniska.

During the winter he occupied himself partly in pursuit of the scanty stock of game which the dense surrounding forests afforded, and in unsuccessful attempts at bear-hunting, but more particularly in visiting every house within a radius



of many miles, inquiring of the inhabitants respecting the birds of the district, and engaging their services for the ensuing spring. Meanwhile his boxes of eggs arrived in England, and the reception by the public of a small portion of them, submitted to sale by the late Mr. J. C. Stevens, was very encouraging to his future labours—genuine eggs of the Jack Snipe, Broad-billed Sandpiper, and other birds it had never previously been in the power of British, or probably of foreign, collectors to procure. Towards the spring he crossed the Kjolen Mountains with reindeer into Norway, and proceeded by sea from Tromsøe to Hammerfest, whence in a short time he returned with the last snow to his headquarters by way of Kautokeino, near which place he successfully scaled a dangerous rock for a nest of the Gyrfalcon. Arrived at Muonioniska, he soon afterwards had the opportunities of taking the eggs of the Crane which he has so vividly described in these pages ('Ibis,' 1859, p. 191), and a few days more saw him again ascending the river to its parent lake, Kilpisjärvi, among the mountains. No great success attended him here; but in his voyage back, under circumstances of which a thrilling account was communicated to Mr. Hewitson's pages, he met with rather better fortune, though he obtained little else than some eggs of a species, the Scaup Duck, which were already known to collectors. On his return to Muonioniska, he stayed there only long enough to ascertain the particulars of the collections which had accumulated for him, and was off again, this time for England, which he reached in August. Depositing his treasures, including eggs of the Shore-Lark, Siberian Jay, Spotted Redshank, Temminck's Stint, and Little White-fronted Goose, with the same friends as before, he departed in a few weeks a second time for the North, and travelling by way of Berlin (where he did not forget to inspect Savary's Dodo-picture) and Stettin to Stockholm, caught the last steamer for the Bothnian Gulf, and reached Muonioniska just before the closing of the river navigation.

The following winter he passed much as he had the preceding one. The breaking out of the Russian war indeed

placed him within a short distance of the enemy's territory, but fortunately did not materially affect his movements, which, as regarded incursions on the Finnish side of the frontier, were wisely overlooked by the local authorities. Still, great caution was necessary, so as to give no possible excuse for any measures that might circumscribe his operations. In the spring of the next year, 1855, he repeated his journey to Norway, and, leaving the Muonio and adjoining valleys to be worked by people whom he had especially instructed, he proceeded along the coast eastward of the North Cape to Wadsö. From this remote town he crossed the Waranger Fjord to the outlet of the Patsjoki or Paswig river, ascending it until he reached the great Lake Enara, which had been the locality previously assigned by too credulous collectors for many a fabled rarity. He found its shores singularly destitute of anything ornithological, but on the way there he was rewarded by the sight of Wild Swans' nests. Returning to Wadsö, he joined Mr. W. H. Simpson and Mr. Alfred Newton, whose arrival he had been for many weeks expecting, and in company with those gentlemen he continued the remainder of the summer, exploring the shores of the Waranger Fjord and lower district of the Tana. They then proceeded by the coast to the Lyngen Fjord, and crossed to Kilpisjärvi, at which famous lake boats were waiting to take them to Muonioniska. After a month's delay here, principally enlivened by the discovery of some nests of the Pine Grosbeak, the party returned to England by the usual route.

The winter of 1855-6 Wolley spent at home. In the following spring he set out with Mr. Simpson for the Baltic, and passed the eggng season chiefly in the island of Öland and on the adjacent coast of Sweden. Mr. Simpson's principal success in this expedition has been already recorded by him in the pages of this Journal ('Ibis,' 1859, p. 264), and in his narrative of it he attributes to Wolley's suggestions the chief results. Wolley himself was rather led away from the living birds to pay attention to the barrows, stone-circles and other relics of a former age with which Öland in particular

abounds, and he was at much pains to examine many of the numerous sacrificial and burial places in that island, and to collect organic remains from them. While thus employed he received a pressing invitation from Prof. Retzius to go with him to the meeting of Scandinavian naturalists then about to be held at Christiania, and accordingly repaired thither, where he read three papers:—1st, “On the Recrystallization of Fallen Snow”; 2nd, “On the Swarm of Lemmings in Lapland in 1853, the Birds that accompanied it, and their Mode of Breeding”; and, 3rd, “On the Improvement of the Breed of the Reindeer.” The meeting over, he returned to Copenhagen, and thence went to Stockholm, on his way to Lapland.

On his arrival at the Swedish capital, he received intelligence of a very unexpected and almost unhoped-for discovery made a few weeks before by persons in his employment—a discovery by far the most interesting and important to ornithologists that was destined to result from his labours. He hurried on to Muonioniska to obtain the details, which he found to be of a most satisfactory nature. The time may probably come when oologists will have a difficulty in comprehending with what delight the naturalists of this generation hailed the tidings that the mystery with which the nidification of the Waxwing had hitherto been enshrouded was dispelled. At Wolley’s especial request the intelligence was communicated to but a few of his most intimate friends at home, one of whom (the late Mr. Yarrell) it was his wish should make public the news. Before, however, the letters announcing the great event reached England that excellent gentleman had been laid in his grave, and the discovery was accordingly first announced in a short paper communicated by Wolley himself to the Zoological Society of London and read at the meeting held March 26th, 1857. Soon after the public had an opportunity of testing their appreciation of this new acquisition to oology, and the result was that a higher price was obtained for each of the three eggs of the Waxwing—offered for sale at Mr. Stevens’s rooms—than had ever been known before, except in the case of those of a

species presumed to be extinct. The full particulars of the discovery were not as yet given to the world.

The winter of 1856-7 passed with Wolley much as usual, though in his letters to his most constant correspondents he complained of being less able than formerly to withstand the rigours of the climate. In the spring he again set out for Norway; but this time he chose another route, proceeding through the almost unexplored country nearly due north of Muonioniska, until he struck upon the head-waters of the Tana, and, descending that river, reached the Waranger district, which had been partially examined by him and his friends in 1855. He was attracted thither by the report that, some years previously, a Swedish naturalist had there met with a breeding-place of the Knot; but the locality assigned was found on examination to be a mountain covered with perpetual snow, and Wolley met with but little to compensate him for his loss of time and labour. When, towards the end of the season, he again returned to Muoniovara, he found a large number of eggs collected for him, and before he left for England he had the additional gratification of receiving from a remote district in Finland some eggs of the Smew, the first known to have been obtained by any naturalist. An account of this, the last great oological discovery he was enabled to make, he contributed to this *Journal* ('*Ibis*, 1859, p. 69), and it detracts nothing from the value of the other articles to say that his paper is certainly the most interesting which appeared in the first number of '*The Ibis*.'

Wolley remained in England during the winter of 1857-8, and began diligently working up the subject which he had long been considering, and then took seriously in hand—the natural history of the Great Auk. With the view of seeking information at the fountain-head, and, if possible, of solving the moot point of the bird's present existence, in April 1858 he sailed for Iceland, accompanied by Mr. Alfred Newton. After passing some weeks at Reykjavik, the capital of that island, they repaired to the village of Kirkjuvogr, being the nearest settlement to the Fuglasker off Cape Reykjanes.

where examples of this bird were last seen. Here they remained two months, in vain waiting for weather when a landing on these distant and dangerous rocks would be practicable. The country around possessed but few attractions for the ornithologist ; but Wolley was indefatigable in seeking for information from the mouths of persons who had formerly visited the Skerries, and was successful in procuring from them many valuable and interesting particulars relating to this bird. A considerable number of bones of the species, found at various places along the coast, were also collected, and these, together with the intelligence just mentioned, were the only results of the expedition worth recording here ; for, owing to the constantly unsettled state of the weather, not a single opportunity presented itself when it would have been in any degree possible to reach the rocks. After a hasty trip to the celebrated Geysers, Wolley returned to England, calling on his way home, as he had done on his outward voyage, at the Færoes, where he not only renewed his former acquaintance with many of the inhabitants, but obtained further useful information respecting the subject to which he was devoting himself.

Soon after his arrival in England Wolley began to find his general health, which had hitherto been exceedingly good, failing, without any apparent reason. He suffered from languor, at times to a most painful degree, and his former energy seemed to have departed from him. This did not, however, prevent his going to the meeting of the British Association held at Leeds in September. Here he read two papers : one, " On a fresh Form of Crystallization which takes place in the Particles of Fallen Snow under intense Cold," being the same subject on which he had remarked two years before at Christiania, and which another winter in the north had enabled him to study more particularly ; and a second, entitled " Observations on the Arrangement of small Stones in certain bare Levels in Northern Localities." He was subsequently present at the Field-meeting of the Tyneside Naturalists' Club, held at Marsden, October 22nd, being the last time he was to attend any scientific assembly. The

distressing feelings of lassitude continued at intervals throughout the winter and following spring; but still neither he nor those about him were much alarmed by them. As the summer drew on, he fancied his bodily strength in some degree restored; but at the same time he was aware of an occasional loss of memory, which became now and then very apparent in his letters to his friends. In the month of July an accidental and trifling occurrence brought on an attack of a much more serious character, and he then placed himself under regular medical treatment. No improvement in his symptoms taking place, it was recommended that further advice should be sought, and accordingly he went to London, where the opinion of one of the highest authorities in the profession—himself since removed by death—was taken. Dr. Todd (for he was the physician consulted) at once declared that the case was one in which no hope of recovery could be entertained, that there was an affection of the brain, probably of long standing, and that a speedy change would take place. These fatal words were fulfilled to the letter; not many days passed before Wolley experienced another violent attack, from which he only once, and for a short time, rallied. He then seemed quite aware of his approaching end, and expressed his wishes respecting the place of his burial and the disposal of his oological collection. On the 20th of November, 1859, after having for some hours lapsed into a state of complete unconsciousness, he expired without suffering.

His last wishes were faithfully carried out. In accordance with them, his remains were interred in the churchyard at Matlock—his birthplace—and his vast collection of eggs was handed over to his friend Alfred Newton, who subsequently published, under the title of ‘*Ootheca Wolleyana*,’ a full catalogue of the treasures it contained, as a fitting memorial of him who formed it. Wolley had been for some time in the habit of sending yearly to the Museum at Norwich most of the skins of the birds obtained by himself or his agents in Lapland. After his decease his father handsomely presented to the same deserving institution the remaining portion of the collection, where it is known as the “Wolley Donation,”

and where it must always form an object of no common interest to naturalists, particularly to those engaged in the special study of the local variation of species, as well as to those who, through Wolley's generosity, or his annual sales\*, have become possessed of duplicates of his eggs, many of which are thereby thoroughly identified. It was, and always will be, a matter of regret that his active mode of life and his premature death prevented his giving to the world the connected account of his discoveries, which he had meditated. But the copious notes which he was so careful to make on almost every occasion enabled their subsequent possessor to remedy this deficiency in some degree, in the Catalogue which he published later. Wolley had, however, already made known many valuable results of his experience, which will be found chiefly in the pages of 'The Zoologist,' and in the last edition of his friend Mr. Hewitson's admirable work on Oology.

To describe John Wolley's character at any length is not the intention of the writer. He has attempted, without the desire of unduly exalting the value of Natural Science, to give in outline the chief events of a life which, if the study of God's creatures deserves any encouragement, cannot be said to have been uselessly spent, and, if unswerving devotion to the cause of Truth merits any praise, must be declared to have been honourably passed. The facts here narrated are left to speak for themselves; on them must Wolley's reputation rest. It would add little to them to state that in the various capacities of relative, friend, and companion, there was little wanting in him, for such encomiums are too often applied without due cause. His good qualities are treasured in the recollection of those who knew him, and especially of

\* The amount realized at these sales has been greatly exaggerated by rumour, especially on the Continent. The writer, on best possible authority, states that the gross receipts of the seven sales, which took place between 1853 and 1859 inclusive, did not exceed £940. From this must be deducted all expenses, the amount of which is not easily computed; but some idea of their extent may be gathered from the fact that, in one season alone, collecting the eggs of a single species cost Wolley nearly £90.

one to whom he gave the last token of his esteem, and who, having endeavoured (how imperfectly no one knows better than himself) to discharge a duty owing to the memory of a deeply lamented comrade, cannot conclude this sketch without an expression of gratitude at having been permitted to share so largely the intimacy of such an upright man.—  
*A. Newton.*

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CAPTAIN T. W. BLAKISTON.

## CAPTAIN T. W. BLAKISTON.

Captain Thomas W. Blakiston, to whom we are indebted for so much of our knowledge of Japanese Ornithology, was born in 1832, and belonged to an old Durham family. After passing through Woolwich, he obtained a commission in the Royal Artillery. In 1861 he wrote a very interesting paper for this Journal on a collection of birds which he had made in North-West Canada, and in the following year he published a narrative of his adventurous expeditions up the river Yangtze, for which he received the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society. He then settled at Hakodadi, in the north island of Japan, and devoted much attention to the Birds of Yesso, discovering many new species, writing various papers which appeared in this Journal, the 'Chrysanthemum,' and the 'Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan,' and sending small collections of new or rare birds to Mr. Swinhoe, or, after the death of that distinguished ornithologist, to Mr. Seebohm. In conjunction with Mr. Harry Pryer of Yokohama, Captain Blakiston succeeded in adding more than a hundred species of birds to the avifauna of Japan. A few years later Captain Blakiston removed from Hakodadi to the United States, and took up his residence at London in Ohio, and afterwards, we believe, in New Mexico. His last ornithological paper was an essay on the "Water-Birds of Japan," published in the 'Proceedings of the United States National Museum.' He died on October 17th, 1891, in New Mexico.

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MR. EDWARD BLYTH.

## MR. EDWARD BLYTH.

Edward Blyth, who died in London in December 1873, at the age of sixty-three, was a naturalist of no ordinary type. Though to the readers of 'The Ibis' his name will be chiefly known in its connexion with Ornithology and the numerous papers registered in our General Subject-Index, birds by no means formed the only zoological subject of which he possessed very ample knowledge. From 1833 to the time of his death, Blyth worked incessantly; and memoirs were contributed by him to different scientific publications, chiefly to the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal,' 'The Annals and Magazine of Natural History,' 'The Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' and to this Journal. For twenty-two years prior to 1864 he was Curator of the Calcutta Museum, which profited largely by his energy and ability. It was there that Blyth devoted himself to the study of the Natural History of British India and its dependencies, the results of which have connected his name so intimately with the Zoology of those countries. His Catalogue of the Birds in the Museum was also written during this period. After his return to England Blyth continued to work with unabated industry, and was at times almost daily to be seen consulting the library of the Zoological Society. At the Society's meetings, too, he was a frequent attendant.

Blyth's connexion with the British Ornithologists' Union commenced in 1860, when he was elected one of our first Honorary Members. After his return to England he was made an Extra-Ordinary Member, and so continued to the day of his death.

All who knew Blyth were struck with his powers of memory, and the readiness with which names and references found expression. His suggestions on such points, though not always accurate, were seldom wide of the mark.

Some of the earlier writings of Blyth, before he took up his residence in Calcutta, were communicated to Rennie's 'Field Naturalist.' It is curious now to look back to them and see how he lent himself to the prevailing epidemic of that period for changing names of birds supposed to be unsuitably applied. Even our most familiar species, such as the Robin, did not escape. It was the mistaken zeal for the fitness and uniformity of names, regardless of the consequences, manifested at this time, which provoked Strickland so energetically and successfully to protest. But the spirit of change which prompted Blyth and others in those days is not wholly laid; for ever and anon it reappears in some new form to disturb the peace of ornithological nomenclature. In his later writings Blyth adhered loyally to the "rules of nomenclature."

It will be a matter of regret if the works of so diligent a writer should be allowed to remain diffused, as they are, through so many zoological journals—the more so as the works of our most laborious compilers omit all references to original descriptions, nor do they furnish any clue to where they are to be found, beyond the name of a species and its author. Is there not here a field of activity for some member of our Union? who, by making even an index to the generic and specific names scattered through Blyth's works, would not only honour a great ornithologist's memory, but also, by saving hours of too often fruitless search to his fellow-workers, confer a great boon upon ornithological science generally.

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MR. JOHN HANCOCK.

## MR. JOHN HANCOCK.

By the death of John Hancock, which occurred at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the 11th of October, 1890, there was lost an ornithologist of a kind almost unique, and another of the few links which still connect us with our predecessors of the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth century has been broken. Though no less venerable for his age—he was 84 years old—than for his character, he was personally known to but few outside of the town in which he so long lived. There, however, he had many friends, even before he enriched its Museum with the fine ornithological collection he bestowed upon it in 1884. Losing his father, who was a tradesman in Newcastle, while yet a child, John Hancock received but a poor education, a deficiency deeply felt by him in after years, and doubtless one of the reasons why it was only with the greatest difficulty that he could be induced to lay before the public any of the store of knowledge which he possessed. It is said, and can be well believed, that he, like his brother Albany (who rose to so great scientific fame), was from his boyhood devoted to the study of Natural History, and never lost an opportunity of prosecuting it that the intervals of business presented. In 1826 Bewick wrote of him as “a young friend and promising naturalist”; and just twenty-one years after Hancock superintended a new edition of the famous ‘British Birds,’ the value of which people now fully recognise, for owing to the care taken, first in cleaning the old blocks, and then in printing from them with the best of ink—ink of inferior quality having been previously used, and especially in the earlier issues, which command so high a price,—fine details of engraving, the existence of which had hardly been suspected before, became manifest with an effect that is in many cases marvellous, while even the few blocks which, through original

defect in the wood, had become worn, present no worse figures than they had done before. In the spring of 1833, John Hancock, with another friend, accompanied the late Mr. Hewitson on a birds'-nesting expedition to Norway, the results of which were made known by the last-named gentleman in his well-known Oological work, and briefly, though more connectedly, in the short-lived 'Magazine of Zoology and Botany' (ii. pp. 309-317). Just fifteen years later Hancock joined the late Charles St. John on a tour with the same object in the then almost equally unexplored northern district of Sutherland; but his field-experience was otherwise mainly gained in his own neighbourhood, where, on the 26th of September, 1838, he chanced to fall in with an example, the first recognised in the British Isles, of the little bird at that time called the "Dalmatian Regulus," but now well known, and hardly to be deemed an unusual visitor to Western Europe, as the Yellow-browed Warbler (*Phylloscopus superciliosus*). Of this species, the specimen shot by himself at Hartley on the coast of Northumberland, which he afterwards figured in his 'Birds of Northumberland and Durham,' is still to be seen in his collection. In that same year, and only a short time before, the British Association met at Newcastle, and Hancock's "Remarks on the Greenland and Iceland Falcons," subsequently published in the 'Annals of Natural History' (ii. pp. 241-250), attracted not a little attention. He lay, however, at that time under the grave mistake (though therein he was by no means alone) of confounding the adult *Falco candicans* with its young, and of describing this last as resembling the immature stage of *Falco islandus*—an error that he was not able to correct until 1854 (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 2. xiii. p. 110), and few have since been rash enough to controvert the truth of the views he then enunciated\*; for he was indefatigable in

\* For comments on both of these subjects, so inseparably connected with Mr. Hancock's name, the readers of 'The Ibis' may be referred to our volume for 1862 (pp. 44-57), in which both are treated at some length according to the light that then existed. For later remarks on the Falcon question reference may be made to the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' (series 4, xii. pp. 485-487).



making observations on such birds as came in his way, and though comparatively few of these have seen the light, time has in most cases proved their accuracy.

Another of his discoveries—as such it really was, for though Yarrell's claim to priority is undoubted, no publication thereof had been made, and the fact was wholly unknown to Hancock—was the specific distinctness of *Cygnus bewicki*. As unfortunately often happens in such cases, some unpleasantness arose out of the circumstances. Yarrell, partly through a proper exercise of caution, and not suspecting that anyone else was likely to meet with specimens of his newly-found Swan, deferred its description until after it had come to the notice of the northern ornithologists, Wingate and Hancock; but it is especially due to the acumen of the latter that the specific validity of Bewick's Swan was recognised. Whether tidings of the fact reached Yarrell, and prompted him to make known the information he had possessed for some four or five years, matters little. If it were so, he was certainly justifying his rights; but those who are curious in such trivial matters may read the charge and defence in the 'Philosophical Magazine' (new ser. viii. pp. 128–130 and 167–169). The whole incident is much to be regretted, and in nothing more than that Hancock thence conceived the ornithologists of the south of England to be jealous of him—an idea, we are sure, that was utterly mistaken, as was shown by the welcome they gave to his handiwork.

For many years Hancock had been attempting to raise "taxidermy" to an art. He knew how a bird should look, and having the eye had also the hand of an artist, so that he could mount a dried skin and endue it with the spirit of life. Other men doubtless may have tried to do the like, but for the lack of the knowledge that comes of observation and the delicacy of manipulation that seems to be inborn, no one except perhaps Mr. Waterton had succeeded. There are still some amongst us that remember with pleasure Hancock's contributions to the Great Exhibition of 1851, where, placed in the central transept, they were always surrounded by admirers, and at the end went unrewarded! One of them

at least—but that by no means the best—may now be seen in the Natural History Museum in Cromwell Road, it having been bequeathed to the Trustees by Mr. Hewitson, who had become its possessor.

On the occasion of the International Exhibition of 1862, Hancock made a similar attempt to illustrate life in death ; but, as noticed at the time ('Ibis,' 1862, p. 283), the Commissioners refused him the space he required, and the beautiful groups he had prepared remained for a long while known only to his private friends. They have now been placed in the Newcastle Museum \*, for which he in his later years unceasingly laboured, restoring, with that patient skill of which he was so great a master, many of its historic specimens that had come from the Allan and Tunstall collections more than a century ago, and adding others from his own stores set up with a regard to truth and feeling that more than one much-vaunted assemblage of mounted groups fails to approach. Indeed, of Hancock's performances it may be said that, unequal as they may be, the worst of them never looks like a stuffed bird—the attitude of some may be ungraceful or possibly forced, but life is always there. In 1874 Hancock brought out his most considerable literary work, and that by which he will always be remembered, the 'Catalogue of the Birds of Northumberland and Durham.' It is an unpretentious, sound piece of work ; its statements as to fact may, we believe, be always trusted, and though assent may be reserved in regard to some of its author's opinions, they are always worthy of attention as coming from a very original mind. Several notices also from his pen occur in 'The Ibis' (1862–1886).

It may here be remarked that in the 'Bibliographia Zoologiæ,' compiled by Agassiz and edited by Strickland for the

\* The group of Swans attacked by an Eagle is said to have given Landseer the idea of one of his celebrated pictures ; but there is this difference between the work of the two artists—the scene executed by Hancock, though fanciful, is possible, that painted by Landseer is impossible.

Ray Society, the few publications (three only) of Mr. John Hancock, therein entered, are ascribed to a namesake of his, and the mistake, of which he was aware, but about which he was wholly indifferent, has not been corrected by Carus and Engelmann in their 'Bibliotheca Zoologica.'—*A. Newton.*

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MR. W. C. HEWITSON.

## MR. W. C. HEWITSON.

William Chapman Hewitson, second son of Mr. Middleton Hewitson, was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on January 9th, 1806. He was educated at Kirkby Stephen and York, and subsequently articled to Mr. John Tuke, land-surveyor of York, in which city he resided until at least 1828, though he was practising his profession in his native city in 1831. He shewed his love for Natural History at an early age, for he occupied himself with oological and entomological pursuits at school, continued them at York, and published the first part of his 'British Oology' in 1831, the last in 1838. In that year we find him employed by Messrs. Sturges at Bristol in the survey of the Exeter and Bristol Railway, but he was again in his native town in 1839. Among the friends of his youth were Messrs. Albany and John Hancock, Joshua Alder, and William Hutton, while his determination to produce a book on British Oology as a sequel to Yarrell's 'History of British Birds' was strengthened, if not caused, by his visits to the collection of Mr. R. R. Wingate, who set up so many of the birds in the Museum at Newcastle. The second and third editions of this work were entitled 'Coloured Illustrations of the Eggs of British Birds' and were issued in 1843-4 and 1856 respectively. At the same period we gather from the pages of the 'Transactions of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club' and the 'Natural History Transactions of Northumberland and Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne' that he was by no means neglectful of the pursuit of Entomology, and was amassing rich collections of British Lepidoptera and Coleoptera.

In February 1829 a few members of the Literary and Philosophical Society at Newcastle banded themselves together to form a society for the study of Natural History,

which became the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and held its first meeting on August 19th of the same year. Hewitson was a member of the first Committee, and one of the Secretaries in 1833 and 1834; while later he became a Vice-President, and contributed several papers to the 'Transactions.'

In 1832 he travelled to the Shetland Islands, and returned with a fine series of eggs, and then in 1833 he accompanied his friends John Hancock and Benjamin Johnson to Norway, with a view to exploring that country for eggs, insects, and plants, and ascertaining the breeding-haunts of certain of our winter migrants. Starting from Newcastle on a Scotch brig the party reached Trondhjem on May 16th and proceeded on foot, with their outfit in a cart, to Rodoë, a small island just within the Arctic Circle. Thence they journeyed by boat, examining not only the islands, but the mountains, lakes, and waterfalls of the mainland; and of this journey Hewitson wrote out a full journal, illustrated by sketches originally made by himself, and supplemented by a map shewing the track followed. This journal was the joint compilation of Hewitson and Hancock, and they record that they were not far from being starved on one occasion, when confined by bad weather to an island.

It was three months before the friends returned to Leith, with the spoils of a most successful expedition; for we are told in Mr. Embleton's memoir, cited below, that they brought back eggs of the Capercaillie, Fieldfare, Redwing, Turnstone, Golden-eyed Duck, and other rarities.

In 1840, Hewitson left Newcastle for the South, and took up his residence successively at Bristol and Hampstead. In 1843 he and his brothers inherited the property of his uncle Henry Hewitson of Seaton Burn, and he was enabled to give up his profession of land-surveyor. A few years afterwards another uncle, Joshua Hewitson, died and left him the estate of Heckley, which he sold to the Duke of Northumberland. In 1848, after a last expedition with John Hancock to Switzerland and the Alps, where he made a fine collection of Diurnal Lepidoptera, as will be seen from his

“Remarks on the Butterflies of Switzerland” in the third volume of the ‘Zoologist,’ he settled down at Oatlands Park in Surrey, having purchased some twelve acres of land and built thereon a house, surrounded by splendid cedars and oaks, in which he was always glad to receive those interested in his favourite subjects. During the last thirty years of his life Hewitson devoted himself specially to Entomology, one of the results being the publication (1852–1877) of his ‘Illustrations of Exotic Butterflies.’ He drew on stone all the figures of his Lepidoptera with minutest accuracy, and also himself coloured them. He was a Member of several learned bodies, including the Entomological, Zoological, and Linnean Societies, and a valued friend of Alfred Newton, Wolley, Yarrell, and other Naturalists in the south of England.

Hewitson died at Oatlands Park on May 28th, 1878, his wife, whom he married in 1853, having predeceased him in 1854. Though wiry, he was of a nervous temperament and at times hypochondriacal owing to dyspepsia, while occasional fainting fits also weakened his constitution.

His estate at Oatlands Park was bestowed upon his lifelong friend John Hancock, while, besides bequests to charities and so forth, he left his entire collection of Butterflies to the British Museum, and, failing the acceptance of his conditions, to the Natural History Society of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

A full list of Hewitson’s works will be found in the Natural History Transactions of that Society (vol. vii. pp. 232–235) at the conclusion of an obituary notice by Dr. Embleton, from which (by kind permission of the Council) the present account has been extracted.



COLONEL L. H. IRBY.



## COLONEL L. H. IRBY.

Lieut.-Colonel Leonard Howard Loyd Irby, who died on May 14th, 1905, at 14 Cornwall Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W., was the fourth son of the late Rear-Admiral the Hon. Frederick Paul Irby, C.B., R.N., the second son of the second Lord Boston. He was born in 1836 and was educated at Rugby. On May 5th, 1854, he was gazetted as Ensign in the 90th Light Infantry, and six months later proceeded with it to the Crimea. He served at the siege of Sebastopol throughout the terrible winter of 1854-55, receiving the medal and clasp and Turkish medal, and was promoted Captain, February 24th, 1857. The same year, upon troops being<sup>o</sup> dispatched to China, the 90th L.I. were ordered thither. Three companies—Capt. Garnet Wolseley's (afterwards Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley), Capt. Irby's, and another—sailed in H.M. Troopship 'Transit,' on April 8th, 1857.

On the voyage out the vessel was wrecked in the Straits of Banea, near Sumatra, and became a total loss. The British soldiers were landed on a small island adjacent to the scene of the wreck, and after ten days the 'Dove' gunboat arrived, bringing the startling news of the great Sepoy Rebellion, and further orders that the 90th, in place of continuing the voyage to China, were to go to Calcutta. Thither the regiment proceeded, *viâ* Singapore, arriving on August 11th, 1857. From Calcutta they made a forced march of some 700 miles to Cawnpore, arriving there whilst evidences of the terrible massacre were yet visible on all sides. Here Irby came in for a great deal of fighting, his "record" including the relief of Lucknow under Lord Clyde, the defence of the Ahm Bagh under Outram, and the siege and fall of Lucknow.

From his earliest days Irby had been profoundly interested

in natural history, and his diary of his voyage in the 'Transit,' and of the following months of incessant marching and fighting in India, is interspersed everywhere with entries relating to the birds and other animals which he had shot or seen.

Lord Wolseley, in his 'Story of a Soldier's Life,' makes frequent allusions to Irby's well-known tastes, and describes several amusing scenes which occurred. Thus, when on board the 'Transit,' Wolseley, who occupied a cabin along with Irby, writes: "A few days after we left the Cape, I remarked a horrible smell in our cabin, and upon sniffing about I found it came from the skin of a Wild Cat carefully pinned upon a board to dry. In my anger I threw it overboard. . . ."

Another entry is highly characteristic of Irby's ways. Lord Wolseley, describing the life at the Alum Bagh, says: "There were some jeels where my old chum Irby, an unerring shot, managed often to pick up a few Wild Duck. He had a curious soldier-servant whom he had trained as a retriever, and no matter how deep the water was where the duck fell, he quickly brought it to his master."

For his services in the Mutiny, Captain Irby received the medal with two clasps and was granted "a Year's Service." After the suppression of the Mutiny, he remained in India until his return to England in September 1860. On June 2nd, 1864, he was promoted to be Major in the 90th, and in October 1864 he exchanged into the 74th Highlanders. In 1868 he proceeded with his new Regiment to Gibraltar, and served there until February 4th, 1871, when he accepted promotion to a half-pay Lieut.-Coloneley. Three years later he retired from the Service.

Irby's devotion to the study of Natural History never failed him, even in the most adverse circumstances. Before Sebastopol he managed in brief intervals when off duty to shoot and skin a variety of birds at the head of Balaclava Harbour and other localities within the extremely limited region accessible to the British Army engaged in the siege. Visitors to his house will recall, among these, a Great

White Heron and a Bittern obtained there. It can easily be imagined that India opened up a wide field for his energies and researches. It was not, however, until 1868, when he first went to Gibraltar, that he came across a field which he was destined to make largely his own. At this time our knowledge of the birds of the Spanish Peninsula was extremely limited, and what was then known was mainly due to Lord Lilford, who had visited the country on several occasions and had contributed papers on its birds to 'The Ibis' in 1865 and 1866. It was a happy chance that the two had been most intimate friends from pre-Crimean days in Dublin.

Major Irby now devoted much time to a thorough study of the birds of S.W. Andalucia and of the opposite coast of Barbary. He had, however, at this time, and indeed throughout his life, an invincible objection to publishing any account of his experiences, and it was largely due to Lord Lilford that he was at last induced to set about his book on the Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar, which, together with Lord Lilford's work, has formed the basis of nearly all the writings on the subject which have since appeared.

This book came out in 1875 and is full of valuable information, much of which was at the time entirely new, on the fauna of this region.

Colonel Irby was a man of marked individuality, and at all times most willing to give assistance and information to those whom he viewed as genuine students of Natural History, but he had an undisguised detestation of the race of "collectors" and wanton destroyers of bird-life. The present writer will never forget the outpour of indignation by Colonel Irby upon the owner of a private collection who exhibited with pride whole trays-full of Choughs' and Peregrines' eggs, in the collection of which entire districts had been mercilessly harried and the beautiful and harmless Chough practically exterminated—at least in one locality. Colonel Irby's wrath against such men was a thing not to be forgotten, and he always declaimed against the baneful

habit of private collectors aiming at securing "British specimens" of birds or eggs.

Another characteristic trait of Colonel Irby was his strongly expressed contempt for that class of naturalists, unfortunately not infrequently met with nowadays, who appropriate the information obtained from others, usually of wider experience and knowledge, and embody the same in their writings and books without any acknowledgment.

It was this deep-seated feeling which in later years often made him loth to write on matters of unquestionable interest, especially to ornithologists, for he argued that to do so would be but to supply further material for unscrupulous book-makers!

It was whilst he was smarting under treatment of this sort, that Lord Lilford and Col. Willoughby Verner were, happily, successful in inducing Colonel Irby to bring out an enlarged Second Edition of his admirable 'Ornithology of the Straits of Gibraltar.' Lord Lilford supplied the fine coloured plates which make so attractive a part of the book, while the present writer gave his own notes on Southern Spain, covering the period 1874-1894, as well as sundry illustrations, which were duly incorporated and acknowledged in the most generous manner. This work, published in 1895, will probably remain the standard authority on the Birds of S.W. Andaluca for an indefinite time.

It has sometimes been said that Colonel Irby failed to record certain species which have since been proved to occur in the districts described. This is to some extent true, but is the best testimony to the accuracy and thoroughness of his work; for he would never admit species into his lists unless fully convinced personally as to their absolute authenticity. In sundry "Lists of Birds observed," published in recent years, it would have been well if Colonel Irby's views on this point had been adopted. He never ceased to make scathing allusions to the marvellous powers claimed by some individuals "who profess to identify all and every species within the range of their vision, even to

distinguish a Common from a Lesser Kestrel at any distance when seen from a passing train"!

An invaluable work to Students of Ornithology in these Islands is Colonel Irby's 'British Birds: Key-List,' which he wrote in 1887-88, and a Second Edition of which appeared in 1892. A list of his papers in 'The Ibis' will be found in the General Subject-Index, beginning from the year 1861.

As is well known, he had exceptionally strong views on the subject of what he ever described as "the needless multiplication of species," and denounced the same in no uncertain language. Of this he once wrote:—"The unfortunate part of ornithology, as at the present practised, is that it is chiefly confined to the slaughter of birds, whose skins, when compared and examined by table naturalists, are, upon the slightest variation of plumage, made into a new species without any knowledge of their habits, notes, &c."

As a Member of the Zoological Society of London, Irby took a keen interest in the management of the Gardens and served on the Council from 1892 to 1900. Many of the beautiful Life-groups of Birds and their nests at the British Museum of Natural History, Cromwell Road, were obtained by Colonel Irby, some of the earliest having been taken in 1884.

The writer of this notice first made Colonel Irby's acquaintance when quartered at Gibraltar in May 1877, twenty-eight years before his death, and from that time, and indeed until within a few weeks of his decease, made numerous expeditions with him in Southern Spain, as well as to many wilder portions of the British Isles. Added to his thorough acquaintance with all appertaining to bird-life, Colonel Irby had a considerable knowledge of Lepidopterous Insects and of Plants. A most interesting and amusing companion, he was also a warm-hearted and staunch friend, whose quaint habits and forcible sayings will long be remembered by all who knew him.—*Willoughby Verner.*

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MAJOR T. C. JERDON.

## MR. T. C. JERDON.

By the death of Thomas Caverhill Jerdon, in his 61st year, the science of ornithology lost one of its most zealous supporters, and at a time too, when, by his return to England after a long sojourn in India, the remainder of a useful life might have been spent in the revision of much valuable work published at different times during his residence abroad. Mr. Jerdon was the son of Mr. Archibald Jerdon, of Bonjedward, Roxburghshire, and was born in 1811. In 1835 he entered the service of the Hon. East-India Company as Assistant Surgeon in the Presidency of Madras. In 1844 he published his first work on zoology, the 'Illustrations of Indian Ornithology.' Mr. Jerdon's name, however, will be best known to ornithologists by his work on the Birds of India, which was issued in 1862. This book has unquestionably proved of incalculable service in promoting the study of ornithology in India. The edition was speedily sold; and we believe that it was the author's intention to have published a second edition, incorporating all the materials that he had since collected, both from his own observations and those of others. The "Supplementary Notes" published in this Journal, and continued down to the end of the Timeliidæ, were intended to prepare the way for this second edition.

Mr. Jerdon had special facilities granted him by the Indian Government to enable him to bring out the 'Birds of India,' and in collecting the material for his work he visited the greater part of India, as well as Assam and Burmah. His knowledge of birds was very great; but he studied them, not by amassing their skins, as is the usual, and perhaps the best, way, but by committing, as it were, their peculiarities to memory, with the aid of copious notes and sketches.

Mr. Jerdon was elected an Honorary Member of our Union in 1864; on his return to England, at his own request he was placed on the list of Ordinary Members. He died on the 12th of June, 1872, after a long and tedious illness originally contracted in Assam, which not even the change to the climate to Europe enabled him to shake off. His first paper in 'The Ibis' was published in 1862, his last letter in 1870.

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SIR JOHN KIRK.

## SIR JOHN KIRK.

Sir John Kirk, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., F.R.S., was born in 1832, and received his chief education at Edinburgh University, where in 1854 he took his degree of M.D.; he then proceeded to Asia Minor, where he served during the Russian war, visiting and making large Botanical collections on the upper slopes of Mt. Olympus and Mt. Ida. After travelling in Syria and Egypt he was appointed by the Foreign Office to accompany Dr. Livingstone as Chief Officer and Naturalist on the Government Expedition under that distinguished explorer. On this he served from 1858 until the return of the Expedition to England in 1864. During this time large collections of Birds, Mammals, and Plants were made, which are now deposited in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington and at Kew, and have been described in various works.

In 1866 Sir John was appointed H.M. Vice-Consul at Zanzibar, he became H.M. Consul-General in 1873, and was promoted to be Agent Consul-General at Zanzibar in 1880. He negotiated and signed the Treaty which in 1873 put a stop to the slave markets and the slave trade throughout the Zanzibar dominions, and negotiated and signed a Treaty of Commerce with Zanzibar. He was also British Plenipotentiary to the Brussels Conference of 1889-90, at which seventeen Powers agreed as to the steps to be taken for regulating the trade in arms and spirits in Africa, and for dealing generally with questions arising out of the Slave Trade and supervision of vessels at sea. He was a delegate at Brussels in 1890 to fix the import duties in the Conventional Basin of the Congo, and was a member of the Commission for the revision of Slave Trade Instructions in 1891. In 1895 he was sent as Special Commissioner to the

Niger Delta, while he was appointed in 1895 by the Foreign Office a Member of the Committee for the construction of the Uganda Railway, of which he became Chairman.

He visited East Africa in 1903, inspecting the Railway, then open as far as the Victoria Nyanza, and reached the Ripon Falls by steamer.

He is D.Sc. of Cambridge, D.C.L. of Oxford, and LL.D. of Edinburgh, while he is Foreign Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society. He is also an Honorary Member of the Zoological Society, a Fellow of the Linnean Society, and a Member of several foreign scientific bodies.

From the preceding details it will be seen that Sir John Kirk has passed a long and honourable career in his country's service; but we must further draw attention to his hardly less important services to science, and to his connexion with 'The Ibis,' to which he contributed a paper on the birds of Eastern Tropical Africa in 1864 (vol. vi. p. 307). His active work has precluded him from publishing the results of his various expeditions since his return to England, but he has accumulated ample material at different times, and has deposited it at Kew and at the British Museum, with notes for the guidance of those who may work out the collections.

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MR. E. L. LAYARD.

## MR. E. L. LAYARD.

Edgar Leopold Layard, C.M.G., was elected an Honorary Member of the B. O. U. in 1860, and was therefore one of our oldest as well as one of our most valued correspondents. He was born at Florence on July 23rd, 1824, and entered the Civil Service of Ceylon when twenty-two years of age; but after nine years his health gave way, and in 1855 he accepted the invitation of the late Sir George Grey to a post in the Civil Service at Cape Town. There he founded the South-African Museum, and became its first curator; after which he accompanied Sir George Grey on a special mission to New Zealand, and subsequently became judge and commissioner under the Slave Trade Treaties at the Cape. Transferred to the Consular Service, he was for some years at Pará, at the mouth of the Amazons; next he was sent to Fiji, where he arranged the cession, and was decorated in 1875; he then resumed Consular Service at Noumea, New Caledonia, and ultimately retired after forty-seven years' hard work. Layard was not a producer of many books, and his chief work in this line was 'The Birds of South Africa,' published in 1867, of which a new and revised edition, with the collaboration of Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, made its appearance between 1875-84. It is rather by his many and varied articles from 1854 almost to the time of his much-regretted death that he will be remembered; and a column of closely-printed type in the General Subject-Index to 'The Ibis' testifies to his energy in our special subject. Besides these, his bright and pleasant letters to 'The Field,' under his own name or the pseudonym of "Bos Caffer," were a source of much pleasure to the Ornithologists of his generation. He died at Budleigh Salterton, Devon, on January 1st, 1900.

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DR. R. B. SHARPE.

## DR. R. BOWDLER SHARPE.

Richard Bowdler Sharpe was born on the 22nd of November, 1847, being the eldest son of Thomas Bowdler Sharpe, a well-known publisher in his day. At the age of six he was sent to Brighton, where his aunt, the widow of the Rev. James Lloyd Wallace, formerly head-master of Sevenoaks Grammar School, had a boy's school, to be well grounded in Latin and Greek. At nine years of age he was transferred to Peterborough Grammar School, of which his cousin, the Rev. James Wallace, had been appointed head-master after his return from the Crimea, where he had served as an Army-Chaplain. Within a few days of his arrival at Peterborough, Sharpe gained a King's Scholarship, which gave him a free education, while he was also a choir-boy in the Cathedral. He left Peterborough with the Rev. James Wallace, on the appointment of the latter to the head-mastership of Loughborough Grammar School, and studied there for some time, commencing his collection of bird-skins: he had already made a large collection of eggs while at Peterborough. He was afterwards sent, with the object of studying for the army, to a private tutor at Steeple Gidding in Huntingdonshire, the Rector, the Rev. C. Molyneux, having been a school-fellow of his father's. Here he remembers having seen the late Lord Lilford, with his Falconer and a full train, hawking on Great Gidding Field. Having no taste for mathematics, however, he did little work, but devoted most of his time to bird-collecting and taxidermy, making at the same time a considerable collection of insects, and having always a large assortment of living birds.

His father, who was then living at Cookham, wished the boy to prepare for Oxford, as his mathematical training for the Royal Engineers had proved a failure; but the lad thought of nothing but bird-collecting.

His first paper, on the Birds of Cookham and the neighbourhood, appeared in the Journal of the High Wycombe Natural History Society, and his collection of specimens, made at this time, is in the Natural History Museum.

At last the old gentleman, who was like Gallio and cared for none of these things, looked upon his son as good-for-nothing, and sent him to London—not with the proverbial shilling, but with a sovereign and a letter, which gained him an immediate situation at Messrs. Smith and Sons, by whom he was always treated most kindly and his natural history tastes encouraged. He afterwards entered the service of the late Mr. Bernard Quaritch, who remained, throughout his life, a most kind and generous friend.

The Library of the Zoological Society having at this time increased to large proportions, it was determined by the Council to appoint a Librarian, and on the recommendation of the late Osbert Salvin and Dr. P. L. Selater, the post was offered to Sharpe, and accepted by him. By this time he had commenced his first ornithological work, the 'Monograph of the Kingfishers,' and, owing to the advantages of the Zoological Society's Library, he soon finished this book and commenced (with Mr. H. E. Dresser) the 'Birds of Europe.' In May 1872, George Robert Gray died, and Sharpe was appointed to succeed him at the British Museum and take charge of the Bird Collection. He entered on his duties on the 11th of September of that year. To write the 'Catalogue of Birds,' he was forced to give up the 'Birds of Europe,' which was completed by Mr. Dresser. Of the 'Catalogue of Birds' he has written with his own pen thirteen and a half out of the twenty-seven volumes, most of the work being done in his un-official time. One of his most important contributions to Ornithological Science has been the 'History of the Bird-Collections in the British Museum,' a history which occupied two years of his private time to write.

In 1891 he was created an LL.D. of the University of Aberdeen, and in the same year received by an Imperial Decree the great Gold Medal for Science from H.I.M. The Emperor of Austria, the highest award for Science given by



that Sovereign. This medal was conferred on the occasion of the Second Ornithological Congress at Budapest, when Dr. Sharpe delivered his presidential address to Section A, on the 'Classification of Birds.' He was also President of Section A at the Third Ornithological Congress at Paris in 1900, and received from the President of the French Republic his appointment as "Officier de l'Instruction publique." In 1905 Dr. Sharpe was President of the Fourth Ornithological Congress in London, and will remain President of the Permanent Ornithological Committee till 1910, when Professor Anton Reichenow will undertake the duties.

Bowdler Sharpe was the first to conceive the idea of the British Ornithologists' Club in 1902, and for some years edited its 'Bulletin.' He is Foreign or Honorary Member of all the principal Ornithological Societies of the world, and has contributed a very large number of papers to 'The Ibis,' as will be seen from the pages of the General Subject-Index.

His work has not been limited to the birds of any particular country, but those of Africa have always been a favourite subject of investigation with him, while one of his best-known works is his edition of Layard's 'Birds of South Africa.'



CAPT. J. H. SPEKE.

## CAPT. J. H. SPEKE.

John Hanning Speke, the second son of William Speke, of Jordans near Ilchester in Somerset, was born at that place on the 4th of May, 1827. He was educated for the army, in which his father had been a captain, and joined the 46th regiment, Bengal Native Infantry, in 1844. He served in the Punjab campaign under Sir Hugh Gough, and in the Sikh war under Sir Colin Campbell, becoming a lieutenant in 1850 and a captain in 1852. A good sportsman, as well as a botanist and geologist, he visited both the Himalayas and Tibet, while on his way home from India in 1854 he fell in with an Expedition, which was then about to start for Somali-land under the leadership of Lieutenant Burton, who afterwards made the name of Sir Richard Burton so celebrated. Speke became attached to this Expedition and was sent ahead to examine the nearer portions of the district. Severe wounds received in a skirmish with the Somalis, however, necessitated a return on sick leave to England, which he left soon afterwards, as a volunteer, for the Crimea, where he remained at Kertch with the Turkish regiment to which he was attached until the war ended.

Another African expedition was at this time being projected by Burton, and Speke was appointed a member at that officer's suggestion. This expedition, though backed by the Home and Indian Governments, took its instructions from the Royal Geographical Society, and the travellers were ordered to proceed from Kilwa to investigate the report which had reached Europe of the Lake Nyassa, and to explore the intervening country. Starting from Bombay on December 3rd, 1856, and landing at Zanzibar, Burton and Speke skirted the coast-lands and finally turned towards the interior at Kaoli, proceeding by way of Zungonero, Ugogo, and Ukimba to Kaze. Acting on information received from the Arabs, the

expedition forced its way to the unknown Lake Tanganyika, in spite of the illness of both its leaders, and Speke crossed the lake from Kabogo to Kasenge, reporting to Burton his belief that he had seen the so-called Mountains of the Moon to the northward. It was necessary to return to Kaze to recruit, and there Speke persuaded Burton to allow him to push on to the still larger northern lake, of the existence of which they had been informed.

Leaving the camp on July 9th, 1858, with a small band of followers, Speke succeeded in obtaining a good view of the lake on August 3rd, and named it the Victoria Nyanza. On his return to Kaze, Burton did not fully credit the fact that he had discovered the sources of the Nile, and a coolness arose between the two friends, which resulted in Speke's return to England in 1859, where he duly reported to the Royal Geographical Society and lectured on the discovery of the two lakes at Burlington House. Sir Roderick Murchison was at that time President of the Society, and he promptly arranged for a further expedition under Speke's command, a proceeding which Burton seems to have resented on his arrival—the rupture being accentuated by the publication by the latter of his work on 'The Lake Regions of Equatorial Africa.' Speke nevertheless returned to Africa with an Indian fellow-officer, Capt. J. H. Grant, being instructed by the aforesaid Society to verify his results and explore the Victoria Nyanza. They proceeded on September 20th, 1860, from Zanzibar to Kaze, and, in spite of illness and the attacks of the natives, penetrated again from Tanganyika to the northern lake; thence they pushed on to Uganda, where King Mtesa shewed himself fairly friendly. Kamrasi, king of Unyoro, on the other hand, was hostile, and it was with difficulty that Speke marched through his land to Urondogani on the Nile, which he reached on July 21st, 1862. Subsequently he followed that river to the spot where it leaves the Victoria Nyanza and named it the Ripon Falls. Mtesa would only allow a hasty survey, and Speke left with a few boats, but he was obliged to land in Unyoro and proceed to the palace of Kamrasi, who detained him for a considerable

time. On November 9th he was permitted to leave, followed the Nile to Karuma Falls, thence struck across country to De Bono's trading-station, and soon came into view of the river once more. At Gondokoro he met Samuel Baker and gave him the information that he had gathered as to the Luta Nzigé (now the Albert Nyanza), which he considered a mere backwater of the Nile. He also planned Baker's route for him, and handed over to him a map which he had prepared, the result being the discovery of the Albert Lake by the latter. From Khartoum Speke forwarded a report to the Royal Geographical Society, while on his return to England he published his discoveries in full at their Special Meeting held on June 20th, 1863. The Founders' Medal of the Society was bestowed upon him, as well as another by the King of Sardinia, who had met him at Alexandria.

Besides various articles in periodicals, Speke published a book entitled 'What led to the Discovery of the Nile' and another called 'Journal of the Discovery of the Source of the Nile.' He was criticized by English and foreign geographers for not having followed the river in all its windings, and a discussion was arranged to take place between him and Burton at the Bath Meeting of the British Association in September, 1864; but before the day appointed Speke accidentally shot himself while partridge-shooting at Neston Park, and was buried on September 26th.

Capt. Speke contributed a paper on the birds which he met with in Somali-land to 'The Ibis' for 1860 (p. 243).

For fuller details the reader should consult the excellent life of Speke in the 'Dictionary of National Biography,' to which the writer of this notice is much indebted.

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MR. ROBERT SWINHOE.

## MR. R. SWINHOE.

Robert Swinhoe was born in Calcutta on the 1st of September, 1836. He was brought to England at an early age, and educated at King's College, London, of which he was made an Honorary Fellow in 1863. On leaving King's College he matriculated at the University of London in 1853, and in the following year passed as a supernumerary Interpreter for the Consular Service in China. During his residence in China he acted as Vice-Consul and Consul at Amoy, Shanghai, Ningpo, and Chefoo, as well as in Formosa. His expeditions included:—a journey up the Yangtze river as far as the interior of Szechuen; the circumnavigation of the island of Formosa; a visit to Hainan; and a journey to Peking, whither he accompanied, as interpreter, the English forces under General Napier and Sir Hope Grant. His last station was Chefoo, whither he had gone, with the hope of regaining health, in 1873. His malady, however, increasing, Swinhoe quitted China in October 1873, and, retiring from the Consular Service on a pension, lived in London till his death on the 28th of October, 1877.

During his stay in China, Swinhoe devoted the whole of his spare time to working at the natural history of the different places at which he resided, ornithology occupying a large share of his attention. On the eve of his first departure from England he made the acquaintance of our late Member, Mr. H. Stevenson. It thus came to pass that some of Swinhoe's first collections were consigned to Mr. Stevenson, and that a portion of the birds passed into the Norwich Museum, where they now are. But during his whole period of work Swinhoe always reserved an extensive series of specimens for his private collection, and used them for reference in compiling the numerous papers that he was constantly writing on his favourite subject. When Swinhoe

first began his study of Chinese ornithology our knowledge of the birds of that country may be said to have been almost nothing. No general account of the birds of China had ever been published; and all that was known of them was of the most fragmentary description. The pages of the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society and of this Journal testify to Swinhoe's unremitting energy in his favourite subject. Of all the papers he wrote on it, the "Revised List of Chinese Birds," published in the 'Proceedings' for 1871, gives the best summary of what he did to advance our knowledge of the Chinese avifauna.

During the latter part of the time that Swinhoe was working at the birds of the Chinese littoral, the interior of the country was being most ably investigated by Père Armand David; so that China, instead of being the *terra incognita* as regards our knowledge of its birds that it used to be, began to rank amongst the fairly explored countries of the globe.

Swinhoe's communications to this Journal commenced in 1860, after which scarcely a number, and certainly no volume, appeared without a contribution to its pages from him. His last communication to us bears the date of the same month as that of his death; and the fine Formosan species there described and figured, from a specimen obtained by Prof. Steere, supplements his own important discoveries in the same island.

Swinhoe was elected an Honorary Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1862, and passed to the list of Ordinary Members at his own desire in 1876. He was a Member of several of the scientific societies of London, as well as a Fellow of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1876.





MR. G. C. TAYLOR.

## MR. G. C. TAYLOR.

George Cavendish Taylor was the second son of the late Mr. Frederick Farmer Taylor, of Chyknell, Salop, by a grand-daughter of Charles Carroll of Carrolton, last survivor of those who signed the Declaration of Independence of the United States. He passed the first portion of his life as an officer in the 95th Regiment, and served his country in the Crimea and elsewhere; after retiring from the army he was in the Militia. He became a director of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway (1864-1889), while he was also at one time a director of the Varna Railway, and was interested in other commercial undertakings.

Mr. Taylor was an ardent sportsman and an excellent shot, and from early life was a collector of birds, more especially those killed by his own gun, and a skilful preparer of their skins.

In 1857-58 he visited Honduras in connexion with the scheme then afloat for carrying an inter-oceanic railway across that country. In company with the preliminary surveying expedition for the proposed line, he crossed that Republic from Fonseca Bay to Omoa, and made a considerable collection of birds, of which he subsequently published an account in this Journal. He was one of the early members of the British Ornithologists' Union, and was an intimate friend of many who belonged to it.

In 1861 Mr. Taylor made an expedition to Florida, of which also an account was given to the readers of 'The Ibis.' In 1872 he contributed to our Journal an account of his observations in the Crimea, Turkey, the Sea of Azov, and Crete during the years 1854-55. One of the specialities of his private collection of birds was a series of Ruffs (*Machetes pugnae*), illustrative of the highly variable plumage of the

male of this species. This series was fortunately secured by Prof. Flower for the National Collection. Mr. Taylor died at his residence, 42 Elvaston Place, Queen's Gate, on July 30th, 1889, at the age of 63 years.



COLONEL S. R. TICKELL.

## COLONEL S. R. TICKELL.

Samuel Richard Tickell was educated for the army, which he entered in 1829; but after having served with the 31st Bengal Native Infantry in the Kol campaign of 1832-33, he exchanged a military life for civil employment till he finally retired in 1865. The wild districts on the S.W. frontier of Bengal, in which, with the exception of a few months spent in Nepal, he was employed from 1834 to 1847, offered a fine field for a naturalist's exploration, and the 'Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal' for this period contains several contributions from Tickell, both ethnological and zoological. His paper on Oology in volume 17 of 'The Field' newspaper gives the first published observations on the nests and eggs of the birds of the plains of India, and his paper on *Manis pentadactyla* and its anatomy is prominently referred to by Jerdon in his 'Mammals of India.' He also contributed a paper "On the Hornbills of India and Burma" to 'The Ibis' for 1864 (vol. vi. p. 173).

In 1847 Tickell was transferred to Arakan, and the rest of his service was spent in this province and in British Burma. It was there for the most part that he worked at the zoological drawings and memoirs which just before his death he presented to the Zoological Society of London. At one time he had projected with Blyth an illustrated work on Indian Natural History. His later contributions to the Bengal Journal comprise among others the description of a new genus of the Gadidae, a full account of the habits of *Hylobates lar*, and an interesting itinerary of a journey which he made with Mr. Parish up the Alteran River. Appended to this paper are notes containing much valuable zoological and botanical information.

Col. Tickell, on his retirement, settled in France and the Channel Islands. An inflammatory attack, the consequence

of exposure while fishing on the coast of Brittany in 1870, cost him the sight of one, and ultimately of both eyes, and the last year of his life was one of great suffering. He died at Cheltenham on April 20th, 1875.

This short account of Colonel Tickell's life is chiefly taken from the obituary notice in 'The Field' newspaper for 1875 (first half year), p. 566, to which paper he constantly contributed articles on the Game-birds and Wild-fowl of India under the signature of "Ornithognomon," and on Sport and Natural History under that of "Old Log." Papers on Indian Ornithology from his pen will also be found in 'The Ibis,' 1860, p. 297 ; 1863, p. 111 ; 1864, p. 173 ; and 1876, p. 336.

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DR. A. R. WALLACE.

## DR. A. R. WALLACE.

It must always afford the greatest pleasure to Members of our Union to recall the fact that Dr. Wallace was one of the earliest contributors to the pages of 'The Ibis,' and that he was one of our first Honorary Members, as long ago as the year 1866. It would have been indeed a loss if so great an authority had failed to give us some account of the ornithological results of his travels, and if our "*Darwinus alter*," as he was termed when presented for his Doctor's degree at Oxford, had not initiated us into the mysteries of the Amazon and the Malay Archipelago, so little understood at that date.

Alfred Russel Wallace, the son of Thomas Vere Wallace, a gentleman of ancient Scottish lineage, was born at Usk in Monmouthshire on January 8th, 1823, and was educated at Hertford Grammar School under Mr. C. H. Crutwell. From 1838 onwards he acted as assistant to his brother William, a land-surveyor and architect, in the counties of Bedford, Radnor, Brecon, Shropshire, and Glamorgan, where he made some progress in Geology and Botany, but devoted himself in particular to Entomology. He began to write articles, though he did not eventually publish them, and on one occasion lectured at Neath on the South Wales Fauna. So the time passed until 1844, when he met at Leicester Mr. H. W. Bates, then also mainly interested in Entomology. This friendship was the turning-point of Wallace's career, for, finding that he had no great liking for the teaching or other professions which he had tried in turn, he decided to travel. Darwin's 'Voyage' and Humboldt's 'Personal Narrative' greatly influenced his decision, while his ideas were encouraged in addition by Mr. E. Doubleday, of the British Museum. The perusal of W. H. Edwards's 'Voyage to Pará' finally settled the exact destination, and Bates and Wallace started in company in 1848 from Liverpool on the barque



'Mischief' of 192 tons register. Their joint explorations of the mighty Amazon and the surrounding districts cannot be given in detail here, but will be found in Bates's 'Naturalist on the Amazon' and Wallace's 'Travels on the Amazon,' while the latter contributed a paper to the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society of London for 1850 (p. 206). The fauna and flora were very thoroughly investigated, but unfortunately Wallace lost all his valuable collections while on his return to England in 1852. He had started from Pará in the 'Helen,' which took fire during her voyage, and the passengers spent no less than ten days and ten nights in a boat before they were picked up by the 'Jordeson,' which finally landed them at Deal.

On reaching England the subject of our notice was not long in making the acquaintance of the great scientific men of the time, and he soon began a long course of scientific writings with a paper on Monkeys, read before the Zoological Society. He visited Switzerland in 1853, and was sufficiently struck by that country to return there on two subsequent occasions. During this year he published his 'Travels on the Amazon' and his 'Palm Trees of the Amazon.'

In 1854 Wallace left England by himself on the P. & O. steamer 'Bengal' for Singapore, whence he journeyed through many parts of the Malay Archipelago, to Borneo, Macassar, Celebes, the Moluccas, New Guinea, Timor, Java, and Sumatra, making large collections and gathering an immense amount of the most varied information. As a result he became deeply impressed by the idea of "Natural Selection" in regard to the perpetuation of species, and forwarded to England an essay entitled 'On the Tendency of Varieties to depart indefinitely from the Original Type.' Though Wallace was unaware of the fact at the time, Darwin had since 1837 been working on similar lines, and the appearance of this essay in London was the first link of a chain that finally resulted in the production of the 'Origin of Species,' which Darwin himself tells us ('Life and Letters of Charles Darwin,' vol. ii. p. 145) might never have been completed, at least in its present form, but for the incentive

furnished by Wallace's paper. It will be seen from the 'Life and Letters' cited above (vol. ii. pp. 116 *seqq.*) that Darwin felt so strongly that Wallace had been actually the first to proclaim his views publicly, that he went so far as to doubt whether it would be honourable or fair to his fellow-worker to publish his own memoir on the subject written as early as 1844, although both Sir Charles Lyell and Sir Joseph Hooker had been cognisant of it for many years, fearing that it might detract from the value of Wallace's work. He was most anxious that Wallace's Essay should be published as soon as possible. Of this proceeding Sir Charles Lyell and Sir Joseph Hooker highly approved ('Life and Letters,' vol. ii. p. 115), "provided that Mr. Darwin did not withhold from the public, as he was strongly inclined to do (in favour of Mr. Wallace), the memoir which he had himself written on the same subject . . ." A joint paper was therefore prepared for the Linnean Society, which was published in its 'Journal' for 1858 (vol. iii. p. 53) under the title "On the Tendency of Species to form Varieties; and on the Perpetuation of Varieties and Species by Natural Means of Selection." It consisted of Wallace's Essay, with the addition by Darwin of (1) Extracts from the above-mentioned 'Sketch' of 1844, (2) part of a letter addressed by him to Dr. Asa Gray in 1857; the whole being communicated to the Society by Lyell and Hooker, who explained the circumstances under which it was published in a prefatory letter. In this manner, by the co-operation of two great scientific men, were the views which were to revolutionize zoology brought before the world.

During his travels Wallace paid much attention to the unconscious mimicry of birds and insects, and to the geographical distribution of the various forms; while he made the personal acquaintance of nearly every species of Paradise Bird then known, and first brought to the notice of naturalists the curious *Semioptera wallacii* of Batchian.

On his return to England in 1862 he was successful in conveying home two live specimens of *Paradisæa minor*, which were deposited in the Zoological Gardens in London.

In 1866 Wallace married Annie, eldest daughter of William Mitten, of Hurstpierpoint in Sussex, and settled down permanently to work at Natural and Social Science, residing at different times in Kent, Surrey, and Dorset.

The list of publications below shew the important nature of his work, but they do not give any adequate idea of the whole, unless account is also taken of his many contributions to periodical literature. The titles of his papers in 'The Ibis' alone fill the greater part of a column in our General Subject-Index.

In 1886-1887 Wallace was lecturing in America, and he has since devoted himself mainly to writing on social subjects.

Of the degrees bestowed upon him we may note LL.D. Dublin in 1882, D.C.L. Oxford in 1889, while in the Birthday Honours for 1908 he was awarded the Order of Merit. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society and other scientific bodies.

On July 1st, 1908, at a Special Meeting of the Linnean Society, he was the first recipient of the Darwin-Wallace Medal, struck to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the reading of the joint paper already mentioned, and in November of the same year he was awarded the Copley Medal of the Royal Society.

*Chief Works connected with Natural Science.*

Travels on the Amazon. 1853; new edition 1889.

Palm Trees of the Amazon. 1853.

The Malay Archipelago. 1869; new editions from 1872 to 1898.

\*Natural Selection. 1870.

The Geographical Distribution of Animals. 1876.

Articles on Acclimatization and on Distribution: 'Zoology,' for the 'Encyclopædia Britannica.'

\*Tropical Nature. 1878.

Australasia. 1879; new edition 1893.

Island Life. 1880; third edition 1882.

Darwinism. 1889; third edition 1901.

Man's Place in the Universe. 1903; new edition 1904.

My Life. 1905.

\* These two works were issued jointly in 1891.



MR. C. A. WRIGHT.

## MR. C. A. WRIGHT.

Charles Augustus Wright, of Kayhough, Kew Gardens Road, was the son of Mr. John Wright, of Cumberland Terrace, Regent's Park; he was born on April 2nd, 1834, and in 1841 settled in the island of Malta, where, during a residence of thirty-three years, he occupied himself in working at the Natural History of the group. As founder and Editor of the 'Malta Times,' he took a large part in the politics of the day, while as special Mediterranean correspondent of 'The (London) Times' he was the author of various articles on naval matters. He was by no means neglectful of the antiquities and fossils of Malta, and was at one time Vice-President of its Archæological Society; but his chief bent was in the direction of Ornithology, Conchology, and Botany, in all of which branches of science he amassed large collections. He was a Fellow of the Linnean and Zoological Societies, and a member of various local bodies, while he was elected to our Union in 1875, on his final return from the Mediterranean. The Order of Knight of the Crown of Italy was subsequently conferred on him, in 1883, in recognition of his ornithological studies.

Mr. Wright was one of the very early contributors to 'The Ibis,' and furnished it with several important papers on the Birds of Malta and Gozo between 1863 and 1874, the first being an account of a visit to the islet of Filfila. He also wrote in Maltese on "Birds observed in Malta and Gozo" for the 'Maltese Encyclopædia of Natural History' in 1862, and published an article in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society of London for 1875 on the peculiar Weasel of the island, while he was recognised as the greatest authority on the Natural History of the group. He died in 1907, in his 74th year.



MR. H. E. DRESSER.

## MR. H. E. DRESSER.

Henry Eccles Dresser, a scion of an old family of yeomen—freeholders who had resided in the North Riding of Yorkshire for nearly three centuries,—was born on May 9th, 1838, at the Thirsk Bank, of which his grandfather was the founder. His father, being a younger son, had to strike out a line for himself, and about 1845 started as a Baltic timber merchant in London. In consequence of this change of residence, Henry Dresser, in 1847, was sent to a private school at Bromley, in Kent, and subsequently in 1852 to a German school near Hamburg. In 1854 he went to Gefle and Upsala to a tutor to learn Swedish, and on the way home stayed at Gothenburg, where he worked at mounting birds in the Museum with Malm. In 1856 he went to St. Petersburg, and thence to Finland, where he entered the office of a large timber merchant to learn the details of the trade; in 1857 he travelled through Finland on business, then through Sweden, and finally reached home by Christmas of that year. In 1858 he travelled all round the Baltic on business, and when at Uleåborg in Finland took the nest of the Waxwing. Later in the same year he was for some time in France and Italy.

In 1859 he went to New Brunswick as temporary assistant-manager on a timber estate, but returned in the latter part of 1860. In 1861 and early in 1862 he travelled in Sweden, Finland, Russia, and Prussia, and in 1862 went out again to New Brunswick as manager of the timber estate for a year till a new manager could be appointed. Early in 1863 he took a cargo out to the Confederate States, to Texas, and remained there for over eighteen months, returning to London on business in the late autumn of 1864. From 1864 to 1870 he travelled abroad every year, and visited Spain twice, Russia three times, Turkey, Austria, Italy, Servia, Bulgaria, Roumania, and other parts. In 1870 he started business at

110 Cannon Street, in the metal trade. He also commenced the 'Birds of Europe' with Mr. R. B. Sharpe, who, however, left him to continue the work alone when he entered the British Museum. In 1878 he married, and did not go abroad that year, but from 1870 to the present year (1908) he has been abroad every spring or autumn, and in every case has made use of his time to work at Ornithology and Oology.

He could make a fair skin of a bird when he went to school in Germany in 1852, and first commenced to collect eggs in that year, but in 1854 he began to amass both skins and eggs systematically. His collection of between 11,000 and 12,000 bird-skins has been at Owens College Museum, Manchester, since 1899, but he still retains his series of Palearctic eggs.

He joined the B. O. U. in 1865; indeed, had he not been prevented by absence abroad, he might have been one of the original members. In 1882 he became Secretary, a post which he held until 1888. To 'The Ibis' he has been a constant contributor.

The following are Mr. Dresser's chief works, not to mention a large number of important papers in periodicals, chiefly on Oology:—

- A History of the Birds of Europe (including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Region). 8 vols. 4to. London, 1871-81. With 633 hand-coloured Plates.
- A List of European Birds, including all Species found in the Western Palearctic Region. 8vo. London, 1881.
- A Monograph of the Meropidæ, or Family of the Bee-eaters. 1 vol. Small folio. London, 1884-86. With 34 hand-coloured Plates.
- A Monograph of the Coraciidæ, or Family of the Rollers. 1 vol. Small folio. Farnborough, Kent, 1893. With 27 hand-coloured Plates.
- Eversmann's Addenda ad celeberrimi Pallasii Zoographiam Rosso-Asiaticam. Aves, Fasc. I.-III. 8vo. Kasani, 1835-42. Facsimile reprint, edited by H. E. Dresser. London, 1876.
- Supplement to the Birds of Europe. 4to. London, 1895-1896, with 89 plates.
- Manual of Palearctic Birds. 8vo. London, 1902-1903.
- Eggs of the Birds of Europe. 4to. London. Parts I.-XIV. (still in process of publication).





MR. E. W. OATES.

## MR. E. W. OATES.

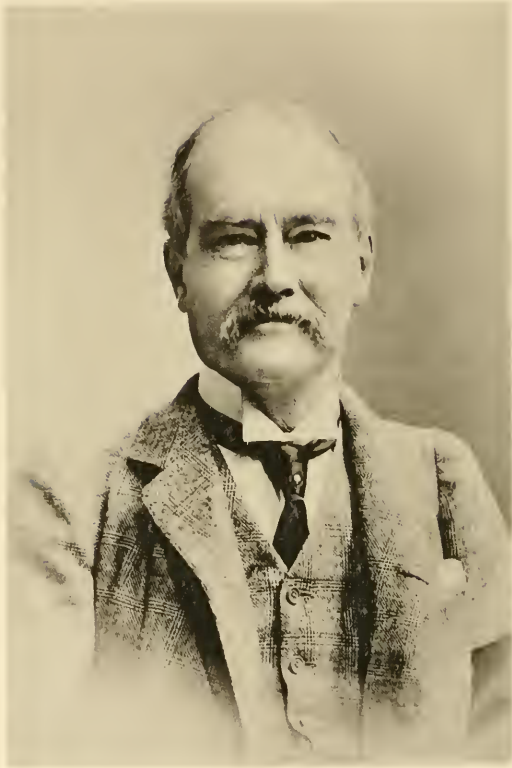
Eugene William Oates was born at Girgenti, Sicily, on the 31st of December, 1845, and was educated partly at the Sydney College, Bath, and partly by tutors. In 1867 he passed, by competitive examination, into the Public Works Department of the Government of India, and was posted to Burma, where he soon commenced to investigate the ornithology of the Province. In 1881 he returned to England, on two years' leave, with a large collection of birds, and wrote the 'Birds of British Burmah' in two volumes. In 1886 he was requested by Dr. W. H. Blanford, the Editor of the 'Fauna of British India,' to undertake the portion dealing with birds. For this purpose he came to England in 1888, again on two years' leave, and wrote the first two volumes, comprising the Passeres. Unable to obtain an extension of leave in order to complete the work, he returned to Burma in 1890. While thus engaged, he also brought out a second edition of 'The Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds' in three volumes, Mr. A. O. Hume having made over to him for that purpose all his notes and correspondence on the subject.

In 1897 Mr. Oates revisited England, and in 1898 and the succeeding year published the 'Game Birds of India' in two volumes. In 1898 the Trustees of the British Museum engaged his services for the purpose of cataloguing the large collection of Birds' Eggs in that Institution. He prepared the manuscript of four volumes, treating of about 50,000 specimens. The first two volumes were printed under his superintendence, but in 1902 he was compelled to abandon the work, owing to severe illness, and the next two volumes were completed, with additions to date, and printed under the supervision of Captain Savile G. Reid. The work has not yet been brought to a conclusion, but the fifth volume is under preparation by Mr. W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.

In June 1898 Mr. Oates was elected to the post of Secretary to the British Ornithologists' Union, and held that position till May 1901. During this period he edited a General Subject-Index to 'The Ibis,' 1859-1894, which had been very carefully compiled by the late Mr. G. A. Doubleday.

Mr. Oates retired from the Service in March 1899 and has continued to reside in England since that date.

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MR. HOWARD SAUNDERS.

## MR. HOWARD SAUNDERS.

Howard Saunders, noted both as a traveller and an ornithologist, was a conspicuous figure among the zoologists of the Metropolis; and his writings, marked as they were by exceptional care and accuracy, will serve as a model for many future generations. He spared no pains to make his own work as perfect as possible, and was never known to refuse his aid, in the interest of science, to those occupied in similar pursuits, while his various activities were only terminated by his death, which occurred at his London residence, 7 Radnor Place, W., on October 20th, 1907, at the age of 72 years, after a long illness borne with the greatest fortitude.

The son of Alexander and Elizabeth Saunders, he was born in London on Sept. 16th, 1835, and received his early education at Leatherhead and Rottingdean, subsequently to which he entered the office of Anthony Gibbs & Sons, merchants and bankers in the City. The foreign associations of that well-known firm caused his thoughts to turn in the direction of South America, and, being naturally of an adventurous and energetic disposition, in 1855 he determined to leave England on a journey to Brazil and Chile. In 1856 he rounded Cape Horn on the way to Peru\*, where he resided continuously till 1860. That country offered to an explorer, and particularly to an ornithologist, magnificent opportunities, of which Saunders was not slow to avail himself, while, not content with these, he occupied his time to a considerable extent with antiquarian researches in the interior. On quitting Peru he crossed the Andes, struck the head-waters of the Amazon, and descended that river to Pará, the journals kept during this notable expedition

\* His first contribution to 'The Ibis' was on the Albatrosses noticed on this voyage ('Ibis,' 1866, p. 124).

enabling him in 1881 to contribute to 'The Field' a series of articles entitled "Across the Andes." The revolutionary spirit of many towns in South America at that epoch constituted a very serious danger, in addition to the usual risks of a wild and little-known country, but Saunders's courage was by no means the least characteristic of his qualities.

In 1862 he returned to England, but only to devote most of his time until 1868 to the investigation of the Avifauna of Spain, a subject on which he soon became our recognised authority. Articles from his pen referring to this part of his career will be found in 'The Ibis' for 1869, 1871, 1872, and 1878; while he wrote in a more popular style for 'The Field' in 1874 his "Ornithological Rambles in Spain and Majorca." In 1868 he married Emily, daughter of Mr. William Minshull Bigg, of Stratford Place, and took up his residence in England; but he still found time to continue his continental expeditions, the results of which are incorporated in papers to 'The Ibis' on the birds of the Pyrenees in 1883-4 and those of Switzerland in 1891, while in 1893 these were followed by an account of "The Distribution of Birds in France."

Saunders was an active Member of the Zoological, Linnean, and Royal Geographical Societies, and was in much request as a member of committees and councils; he was a Vice-President of the first-named and in close touch with the Gardens at Regent's Park, where he took a strong interest in the animals and their management. He was elected a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1870, and in 1901 entered upon the office of Secretary, a post which he held till his death. He was also the first Secretary and Treasurer of the British Ornithologists' Club, when that offshoot from the parent stem was founded in 1892. The fifth and seventh series of 'The Ibis' were issued under his editorship, conjointly with Selater; while from 1877 to 1881 he acted as the Recorder of "Aves" for the 'Zoological Record,' and from 1880 to 1885 as Secretary of Section D (Zoology) at the meetings of the British Association. In 1884 he edited Vieillot's 'Analyse' for the Willughby

Society, and during his whole career in England he was a regular reviewer of books on Natural History, Sport, and Travel, especially for the 'Athenæum.' A paper on the eggs obtained by the Transit of Venus expedition of 1874-5 appeared in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1879, and the portion of the 'Antarctic Manual' referring to the Birds came from his pen in 1901. He was actively concerned in the Bird-Department of the Fisheries Exhibition in London in 1883, while he always kept in close touch with the naturalists of the United States, where he was an Honorary Member of the American Ornithologists' Union.

Saunders had a world-wide reputation as an authority on the family *Laridæ* (Gulls and Terns), and published important papers on it in the 'Proceedings' of the Zoological Society of London for 1876-8, and the 'Journal of the Linnean Society (Zoology)' for 1878; hence he was naturally selected to write the portion of the twenty-fifth volume of the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum' which deals with this group. But to the public in general he will always be best known as the Editor, in 1884-5, of the last two volumes of the fourth edition of Yarrell's 'British Birds,' commenced by Professor Newton, and as the author of that most excellent work 'An illustrated Manual of British Birds,' issued in 1889, wherein was included not only the whole essence of 'Yarrell,' but a large amount of fresh information, though two pages only were devoted to each species. The value of this volume to Palæarctic ornithologists was speedily made evident by the call for a second edition in 1899, after which date, while still writing for 'The Ibis,' Saunders continued to keep up a constant correspondence with those who recorded additions to the British List, as published by himself in 1887, and the last article from his pen was one dealing with this subject in the new periodical entitled 'British Birds.'

The death of our Secretary was acutely felt by his fellow-workers, to whom he was always accessible and whose writings he was invariably willing to revise; in fact the correction of the proofs of others consumed a large portion

of his time in later life. Kind and helpful, a well-trying and trusty friend to many Ornithologists at home and abroad, his loss was deplored deeply not only by them, but by many a Scientific Society.

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MR. A. H. EVANS.

## MR. A. H. EVANS.

Arthur Humble Evans was born on February 23rd, 1855. He is the eldest son of the late Rev. Hugh Evans, of Scremerston in Northumberland, who in early life devoted himself to Botany and Ornithology, and subsequently became one of the most noted Horticulturists of the Eastern Borders. Under such guidance Evans naturally inclined to scientific pursuits, while he was exceptionally fortunate in being intimate with many of the earlier Members of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, the oldest Field Club of its description in Britain.

Educated in the first place at home and at Durham School, he had ample opportunities of indulging his taste for Natural History in the two northern counties with their wealth of plant- and bird-life, while he possessed in his kind friends of the Border country and later in Canon Tristram of Durham acquaintances ever ready to help and encourage the learner. At school he gained the annual prize for a Herbarium, and began to collect birds' eggs, some of which came out of the consignments sent from Iceland to the well-known Curator of the Durham Museum, Mr. W. Procter.

Gaining a scholarship at Clare College, Cambridge, he continued his scientific studies at that University, where he had the further good fortune to make the acquaintance of W. A. Forbes, of St. John's College, even then a distinguished Naturalist, who introduced him to Professor Alfred Newton at one of his celebrated Sunday evening gatherings. Many and valuable were the consequences of this introduction, while the men of mark, so constantly to be met with at Magdalene College, served as admirable models to the young students.

Evans proceeded to the B.A. degree in 1879 and in due course became an M.A.; he has since resided continuously

in Cambridge, partly engaged in the work of tuition and partly in scientific pursuits. In 1900 he was elected by the Members of the Senate to the post of Esquire Bedell in the University.

His first essays at writing were articles in the 'History of the Bewickshire Naturalists' Club' on the birds and plants of the district, while in 1884 he became a Fellow of the Zoological Society of London, and Recorder of *Aves* for the 'Zoological Record.' He now had the inestimable advantage of meeting the Ornithologists of London, and was greatly assisted by Dr. Selater and the authorities of the Natural History Museum at S. Kensington, with Dr. Bowdler Sharpe at the head of the Bird Department. With Mr. Howard Saunders he formed an especially close friendship, and in his company made several ornithological expeditions in our islands. In 1879 he had become a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union, and this led to a further enlargement of his circle of acquaintance, while subsequently he served on the Committee and finally became Joint-Editor of 'The Ibis' with Dr. Selater in 1901.

In 1888 Evans was invited by Mr. S. B. Wilson, of Magdalen College, Cambridge, who had more than once visited the Sandwich Islands in search of their peculiar birds, to co-operate with him in a projected work on the Birds of the Sandwich Islands, which was published between 1890 and 1899, under the title of 'Aves Hawaiienses.' He next undertook to write the volume on 'Shetland' for the 'Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland' series, under the Editorship of Messrs. Harvie-Brown and Buckley, and in concert with the latter completed the work in 1899. Several visits were at this time paid to the Shetland Islands, the fauna of which needed thorough investigation, while journeys were also made to Ross-shire and Roxburgh-shire, which resulted in short papers in the 'Scottish Naturalist' and later in its successor the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.' Evans joined the Botanical Society of Edinburgh in 1882 and became a Member of the Scottish Alpine Botanical Club associated with it, meeting on the Club's various expeditions many Scottish

Botanists, with the late Professor Dickson at their head.

About 1893 a project for a 'Cambridge Natural History' was mooted, to be published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co., and Evans was requested to prepare the volume on Birds, which was issued in 1899. He next, in 1903, edited and translated Turner's 'Historia Avium' of 1544, and then again turned his attention to the birds and plants of his native and adopted counties, preparing the list of Cambridgeshire Birds for Messrs. Marr and Shipley's 'Handbook to Cambridgeshire' and the articles on the same subject for the 'Victoria' Histories of that county and Northumberland. He has also undertaken the account of the Phanerogamic plants for that of Cambridgeshire, and the next volume of the 'Vertebrate Fauna of Scotland'—on the Tweed area.



MR. J. L. BONHOTE.

## MR. J. L. BONHOTE.

John Lewis Bonhote was born in London in 1875 and educated first at Elstree School and then at Harrow. He entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1893 and, after taking the ordinary degree in Zoology, proceeded to his B.A. in 1897, his M.A. in 1901.

That he took an interest in Zoology at an early age is clear from the fact that he has since written a pamphlet on the 'Butterflies and Moths of Harrow' in conjunction with Mr. N. C. Rothschild, while he began to shew his liking for birds in captivity as early as, if not earlier than, his residence at Cambridge, where he built for himself a fairly extensive aviary in a field near the town. When he moved to Fen Ditton in 1897 he extended his operations, and began those experiments in crossing various species of Ducks which we are accustomed to associate with his name. During the same year he left England for the Bahama Islands, as Private Secretary to the Governor, Sir Gilbert Carter, while in 1898 he married the daughter of the Rector of the Islands. He did not leave the Bahamas for more than a year, and made expeditions during his stay to investigate the fauna, and more particularly the birds. These investigations were carried a step further in 1901-1902, when a second visit was paid to the Bahamas. In 1895 and again in 1901 Mr. Bonhote made collecting trips to Northern Norway, and he has travelled to various parts of Britain with the same object.

When the Avicultural Society was founded in 1894 the subject of our notice was one of the first to join it; he was subsequently elected to the Council in 1895 and became Secretary in 1899. In 1902 he exchanged this office for a post on the Executive Council, while he is now Treasurer of the Society. He was elected a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1894, was placed on the Committee in

1903, and was appointed Secretary in 1907. He is also a Fellow of the Zoological and Linnean Societies.

Mr. Bonhote is the author of several systematic papers on the Mammals of the Oriental Region, chiefly based on material at the British Museum, and of many articles on Birds in captivity in the 'Avicultural Magazine.' His great interest in the subjects of Colour-change and Heredity is shown by papers which have appeared under his name in 'The Ibis' and elsewhere, while the first main results of a series of experiments in hybridizing Ducks were published in the Proceedings of the Fourth International Ornithological Congress, held at London in 1905. At that Congress he was Joint-Secretary with Dr. E. Hartert under the presidency of Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe.

Besides the offices already mentioned, he has been Secretary of the Migration Committee of the British Ornithologists' Club from its inception in 1905, and is not only a Member, but also one of the Council of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

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